

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life and IOU News are quarterly publications of the Union.

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FRONT COVER: Prothonotary Warbler seen at Hooper Wildlife Area, Warren Co., IA on 24 May 2003. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA

Meet An Iowa Birder: Aaron Brees

Ann M. Johnson



Aaron Brees

"Hey Aaron, are you working yet?"
"I'm trying hard not to!"

Ah, youth. Which of us doesn't at one time or another wish for the freedom to chase the next rare bird on the whim of the moment? So far in his twenty-seven years, Aaron Brees has managed to balance survival with birding and he has become a great scout team of one for those of us with precious little time to pursue our passion.

Aaron was born on 26 May 1976 in Grand Forks, ND where his father was finishing his commission in the Air Force. The family made their way back to Iowa and lived for a time in Oskaloosa until his father decided to change careers and headed back to school, thus giving young Aaron a role model that you really don't have to decide what you want to be when you

grow up too early in the game. After a short stint in Fort Madison, where for a change of pace Aaron was not the tallest kid in the class since his classmate was future Hawkeye Ryan Bowen, the Brees family settled in Corydon where Aaron graduated from high school in 1994.

Although, as a youngster, he was not yet a birder per se, Aaron and his family spent many hours outdoors fishing and hunting in the streams and grasslands of southern Iowa. When he was a senior in high school, an article about birding in *The Des Moines Register* included the phone number of the Rare Bird Alert. Aaron called the number to check it out and became a regular caller. The birding bug had begun to bite and he studied the birds he was seeing in an attempt to identify each one.

The following fall found him at Simpson College and he continued pursuing this newfound interest by taking trips to Lake Ahquabi and Red Rock Reservoir. Learning about upcoming Christmas Bird Counts piqued his curiosity and that winter he appeared at the Red Rock Christmas Count and began making contacts with other area birders. Not long after that he made more birding friends at his first IOU meeting and he has become a familiar sight since.

Aaron gravitated toward the Environmental Studies program at Simpson and the summer of 1997 found him doing point counts in Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin. Little did we know that these summer/periodic jobs would become his livelihood! After graduation from Simpson in 1998, he worked on the prairies of west-central Minnesota, counting nesting birds through the week and working on his life list on weekends. This was a pattern that was to continue. The summer of 1999 found him doing some of the same at Honey Lake, California only this time it was shorebirds rather than grassland birds. Honey Lake was a spectacular birding area for California. Birds of particular interest to be found there were male Ruff, male Eurasian Wigeon, breeding-plumaged female Red Phalarope, Eastern King-

bird, and Northern Parula. These jobs were certainly giving him a taste of different ecosystems and in the process a growing life list.

Perhaps one of his most intriguing temporary jobs was in the spring of 2000 when he was hired by Louisiana State University to count spring migrants coming across the Gulf of Mexico. Counters were stationed on oil rigs well out into the gulf waters and sometimes exhausted birds would land on the rig for respite. Imagine being miles from any shoreline and seeing Cerulean Warbler and Chuck-will's-widow land nearly at your feet.

The summers of 2000 and 2001 were spent on the prairies of Montana as a research assistant for Steve Dinsmore and his Mountain Plover project. This experience has made him a valuable resource to Iowa on the identification of prairie birds that may occasionally find their way into our state. Other projects have taken him to the Imperial Valley of Southern California for more Mountain Plover research, South Carolina, and New York/Ontario. Each job has provided the opportunity to add new birds to his life list and at times make some exciting discoveries. Finding a Dotterel in California ranks high on his list of neat experiences.

The winter of 2001 brought Aaron a taste of birding outside the United States as a participant in one of Budget Bob's tours to western Mexico. The tropics were a hit with Aaron, Aaron was a hit with the señoritas, and the rest of us were impressed with his uncanny ability to observe, sort through, and identify species unfamiliar to us.

Back home Aaron often runs across unusual species as he wanders across Iowa. His discovery of a Curlew Sandpiper at Red Rock in May 2002 (Brees 2003) was a great gift for many of us. He has spent much time cruising the back roads of Wayne County, finding excellent birding locations that are elaborated on in an article for *Iowa Bird Life* (Brees 2002). Of course being a true birder, there are always those stories of misses and near misses. One that particularly stands out in my mind was the Ross's Gull at Red Rock Reservoir in December 1997. The phone lines were buzzing as word spread but no one could find the kid who had spent hours at Red Rock all fall. His mom said he was out in a deer stand for the day. My thoughts turned to Tim Schantz who had missed the first record of Ross's Gull in his own backyard. Not again! It wasn't long before a Wayne County car appeared and Aaron saw his bird, muttering under his breath that he was just going to have to give up deer hunting.

Since seriously beginning his birding career, Aaron has been a regular contributor to field reports and with the mentoring of Steve Dinsmore has become adept at providing not only species reports but also good counts of individuals. Data like this can be invaluable for the future. His expertise on Iowa birds and birding locations led to his appointment as the Iowa Christmas Bird Count editor in 2001 and his election to the Iowa Records Committee beginning in 2003.

Most birders, no matter how passionate they become about their interest, in time become observational experts in other areas as well. For a long time Aaron has had a passing interest in butterflies but the summer of 2002 tripped a curiosity about dragonflies as well. Feeling that Wayne County might well be under-represented in breeding bird status, he set out to add some evidence. The discovery of breeding Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at an old oxbow of the Chariton River was only the beginning. Along the way he found a few dragonflies and tried to identify them. The end result was two new species for the state, Mocha Emerald (*Somotachlora lineares*) and Slaty Skimmer (*Libellula incesta*) in Wayne County, and a significant range extension of another, Blue-faced Meadowhawk (*Sympetrum ambiguum*) in Wayne and Lucas Counties (Johnson 2003). Key field marks for summer sightings of this

young man now include binoculars and a net.

Who knows where Aaron's path may lead in the coming years. A talented artist who often sketches birds as a part of his field notes; a skilled observer of birds and dragonflies and other critters; a young man who is deciding which direction the wind will blow this time — all descriptions of someone we are pleased has chosen to remain an Iowan. Stay tuned for the next chapter...

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Lewis and Clark: First Documenters of Iowa's Avifauna

Thomas H. Kent

Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led a military expedition under orders from President Thomas Jefferson up the Missouri River and across the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean beginning on 15 May 1804 and returning to St. Louis on 26 September 1806. They ascended the Missouri River (Figures 1 and 2) in one keelboat and two pirogues, passing present-day Iowa from 18 July to 21 August 1804 and returning past Iowa in canoes from 4 to 9 September 1806. By today's standards, they may be considered to be the first to make "scientific" records of birds in Iowa.

The first white men credited with reaching Iowa were Louis Jolliet and Jacques Marquette when they traveled down the Mississippi River from the Wisconsin River in 1673. Pierre Esprit Radisson, however, reached the Mississippi River in Minnesota in 1660 (Adams 1961). There is little information on bird sightings along the eastern edge of Iowa, which was traversed by hunters and trappers, mostly French and mixed French and American Indian descent.

Lewis and Clark were not the first white men to reach western Iowa. The first notes on travel along the Missouri River in Iowa were from 1714, when Etienne de Veniard sieur de Bourgmont, under orders from French Commander Cadillac at New Orleans, traveled up the Mississippi and Missouri rivers at least to the mouth of the Platte River and left a log detailed enough for a French cartographer to draw an accurate map of the lower Missouri River, Bourgmont did not mention birds (Norall 1988). In 1739, Pierre and Paul Mallet, French Canadian brothers, ascended the Missouri River past the mouth of the Big Sioux River before heading overland and south through eastern Nebraska to Santa Fe. The existing partial copy of their journal, which mostly describes their route, starts after they left Iowa and does not mention birds (Blakeslee 1995).

At the end of the French and Indian War (1763), the French lost control of Canada to England and of "Louisiana" to Spain. St. Louis, the hub of fur trade and exploration on the Missouri River, was founded in 1762, but exploration of the upper Missouri was delayed until 1789, when Juan Munier visited the Ponca Indians in northeastern Nebraska (Nasatir 1930). In 1790, Jacques D'Eglise was licensed to hunt on the Missouri and became the first Spanish citizen to reach the Mandan Indian villages in North Dakota (Nasatir 1927a). The

documents relating to this and his subsequent trips do not include any mention of birds (Nasatir 1927b).

In 1793, the Missouri Company, a trading company that continued for many years under various names and ownership, was formed and headed by Jacques Clamorgan (Nasatir 1930). In addition to profiting from fur trading, the Spanish government was interested in preventing the English from gaining control of the Mandans and finding a passage to the Pacific Ocean. The Sioux and Arikara Indians in South Dakota were a major impediment to travel up the Missouri. Jean Baptiste Truteau, who had been the first schoolteacher in St. Louis, led the first expedition of the newly formed company, which left St. Louis in 1794 (Trudeau 1914).

From 1794 to 1804 there were many expeditions up the Missouri (Nasatir 1952). Those that left records of their travels include James Mackay (Houck 1909; Quaife 1916; Abel-Henderson 1923), John Evans (Williams 1949), Charles Le Raye (1908), Regis Loissel (Houck 1909), Pierre Antoine Tabeau (Abel 1939), and Francois Marie Perrin du Lac (1807).

In 1796, Mackay built a fort, called Fort Charles, in Nebraska opposite Woodbury County, Iowa. Truteau, Mackay, Evans, and Perrin du Lac made maps of the Missouri River that were useful to Lewis and Clark. John Evans, a Welshman trying to find the Welsh Indians (who according to legend were descendents of Madoc who was said to have come to the New World in 1170), was part of the Mackay expedition. Pierre Antoine Tabeau, a well-educated French-Canadian, went up the Missouri River with Regis Loisel to establish a fort and trading post on Cedar Island in South Dakota. His extensive journal is the only one that mentions birds, but is general and pertains mostly to South Dakota. One passage that probably includes Iowa states, "Game is very abundant at low water. From the River of the Osages to the River Platte...turkey hens abound on the points..." Tabeau returned to St. Louis on the Lewis and Clark keelboat in 1805.

By 1804 when Lewis and Clark started up the Missouri River, the river and its inhabitants were well known as far as the Yellowstone River in Montana, but "very few of the men who ascended the river are known by name" (Nasatir 1952). Those men were hunters, trappers, and traders and left no records of the birds that they saw.

In contrast, Meriwether Lewis was the first to ascend the Missouri River in what is now western Iowa who had any scientific training and instructions on how to study the fauna and flora of the region. Although his knowledge was meager by today's standards, he had an interest in plants and received instructions on how to collect, preserve, and describe specimens from the leading authority, Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton, during the month he spent in Philadelphia prior to the expedition. Alexander Wilson, John James Audubon, and Thomas Nuttall had not yet written their accounts of American birds, and the discovery and naming of many species was yet to come. The physical labor involved in ascending the Missouri River left little time to study the natural history, and the return trip past Iowa took only a few days. Nevertheless, President Jefferson made it clear that they were to study natural history, especially new species.



Figure 1. Missouri backwater at Lewis and Clark State Park, Monona Co., 18 May 1998. Photograph by T. H. Kent, Iowa City, IA.

A note of explanation on the journals of the Lewis and Clark expedition is in order before detailing the birds that they saw in what is now Iowa. As mandated by President Jefferson, extensive notes were made by Lewis and Clark and by at least four enlisted men (Gass, Floyd, Whitehouse, and Ordway). Sergeant Gass's journal, heavily edited by David McKeehan, was published in 1807. The original journal is not extant. After Lewis's death in 1809, Clark engaged Nicholas Biddle to edit the Lewis and Clark journals. The edited version was published in 1814. Most of the material on natural history, by agreement, was set aside for Dr. Barton to edit, but he was old and ill and did not complete the task.

Jefferson and Biddle deposited the original journals at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia in 1817 and 1818, and there they lay until 1892 when the noted ornithologist and historian, Elliot Coues began to examine them and prepare a revision of the Biddle edition, which was published in 1893. Coues codified all of the existing journals and documents and wrote extensive footnotes based on his personal knowledge, but maintained the original Biddle editing (Moulton 1996).

Beginning in 1901, two years after Coues death, Reuben Gold Thwaites, a noted historian, began work on the first unedited version of the Lewis and Clark journals. He included the natural history material not previously published, a set of Clark's notes (Voorhis Collection), and the journals of Sergeant Charles Floyd and Private Joseph Whitehouse. Thwaites's annotations were not as proficient as Coues's, and he made some errors in transcription and organization. In 1913, the journal of Sergeant John Ordway was found by Biddle's grandsons and edited by Thwaites's successor Milo M. Quaife. In 1953, another set of Clark's notes was found (Dubois and River journals).

Finally, from 1983 to 2001, a complete set of all of the existing journals and maps from the Lewis and Clark expedition in their original form with extensive annotation was published in 13 volumes edited by Gary E. Moulton. Thus, it took almost 200 years to bring together the amazing amount of material preserved from this expedition and 100 years to publish the significant findings on Iowa birds. Stephen E. Ambrose (1996) deserves credit for writing a very popular account of the expedition (which whetted my interest), but after reading from the original accounts, it is clear that Ambrose abbreviated and glamorized the story.

There are two general books on the natural history of the Lewis and Clark expedition (Burroughs 1961, Cutright 1969). Burroughs is more detailed on birds, but neither contains the details that can be found in the various Moulton volumes. Swenk (1937) reviewed the birds

seen in Nebraska by the Lewis and Clark expedition, which include the birds at the latitude of Iowa, except for a few that were not published at the time he wrote. It is not possible to tell whether the birds seen along the Missouri River were in Iowa, Nebraska, or both because the side of the river was not noted for most, and even if it were, the river has shifted course making the determination of the relationship to the current state boundary almost impossible.



Replica of keelboat used by Lewis and Clark. Lewis and Clark State park, 18 May 2003. Photograph by T. H. Kent, Iowa City, IA.

For all of the birds mentioned in the various journals of the Lewis and Clark expedition, the species accounts that follow give the date, Iowa county corresponding the latitude of the sighting, observer, and page reference to the appropriate Moulton volume. An “[n]” indicates a footnote on that page.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

American White Pelican. For 8 Aug 1804 (Harrison Co.), Lewis noted, “I saw a great number of feathers floating down the river those feathers had a very extraordinary appearance as they appeared in such quantities as to cover pretty generally sixty or seventy yards of the breadth of the river. for three miles after I saw those feathers continuing to run in that manner, we did not perceive from whence they came, at length we were surprised by the appearance of a flock of Pillican at rest on a large sand bar attached to a small island the number of which would if estimated appear almost in credible; they appeared to cover several acres of ground, and were no doubt engaged in procuring their ordinary food; which is fish, on our approach they flew and left behind them several small fish of about eight inches in length, none of which I had seen before — the Pellicans rested again on a sand bar above the island which we called after them from the number we saw on it. we now approached them within about three hundred yards before they flew; I then fired at random among the flock with my rifle and brought one down; the description of this bird is as follows” (Moulton 1986, p 460). Lewis follows with an extensive description and measurements of the bird. This episode is also noted in the journals of Clark, Ordway, Floyd, Gass, and Whitehouse. For example, Gass wrote, “One of the hunters killed a pelican on a sand bar, and Captain Lewis killed another, very large....In a bag under the bill and neck of the pelican, which Captain Lewis killed, we put five gallons of water” (Moulton 1996, p 26). And Whitehouse wrote, “Captn M. Lewis Shot a pillican the Bagg that it carried its drink in containd. 5 Gallons of water by Measure after we passed the pillican Island there were better than 5 or 6000 of them flying the[y] Kept bfore Us one day” (Moulton 1997, p 52). For 4 Sep 1806 (Woodbury Co.), Clark noted, “we See no Species of Game on the river as usial except wild geese and pelicans” (Moulton 1993, p 350). And Clark made a similar note for 5 Sep 1806 (Monona Co.) (p 351). For 6 Sep 1806 (Harrison Co.), Clark noted, “two pelicans were killed to day” (Moulton 1993, p 352), and Ordway noted, “Saw a large flock of pillicans Some hunters killed three of them (Moulton 1995, p 359). Also, Gass “saw a number of pelicans” (Moulton 1996, p 276).

American Bittern. In notes made by Clark, but not in the main journal, Clark lists, “Indian Hen & Small Species of kildee which frequent drift is found as high up as the Entrance of the Little Sioux river” (Thwaites 1905, p 122; Moulton 1993, p 416). Swenk (1935) indicates that Indian Hen is a vernacular name for American Bittern.

Great Blue Heron. For 11 Aug 1804 (Monona Co.), Clark noted, “Great nos of Herrons this evening” (Moulton 1986, pp. 470, 471[n]). Coues (1893, p 73) inserts “[herons, *Herodias egretta*]” implying that they were Great Egrets; whereas, Swenk (1935) uses the heading “Eastern Great Blue Heron.”

Great Egret. For 2 Aug 1804 (Pottawattamie Co.), Lewis noted, “This day one of our hunters brought me a *white heron*.” He follows with a long detailed description of a Great Egret including measurements (Moulton 1986, pp 436–437).

Canada Goose. For 19 July 1803 (Fremont Co.), Clark “Saw great numbers of young gees” (Moulton 1986 pp 395, 396). For 30 Jul 1804 (Pottawattamie Co.), Clark noted, “Gees Killed to day.” (Moulton 1986, p 429). For 4 Aug 1804 (Harrison Co.), Clark noted,

"in this sand bar I Saw great Nos. of wild gees" (Moulton 1986, p 445). For 8 Aug 1804, Lewis adds an indefinite note, "we had seen but a few aquatic fowls of any kind on the river since we commenced our journey up the Missouri, a few geese accompanied by their young..." (Moulton 1986, p 459). For 5 Sep 1806 (Monona Co.), Clark noted, "We saw no game on the shores to day worth killing only Such as pelicans Geese ducks, Eagles and Hawks etc." (Moulton 1993, p 350). Canada Goose is the only likely species of goose to have nested in Iowa.

Wood Duck. For 8 Aug 1804, Lewis adds an indefinite note, "we had seen but a few aquatic fowls of any kind on the river since we commenced our journey up the Missouri,...the Wood Duck which is common to every part of this country..." (Moulton 1986, p 459).

Duck species. For 11 Aug 1804 (Monona Co.), Clark noted, "Cap Lewis Killed a Duck." (Moulton 1986, p 468). For 15 Aug 1804 (Woodbury Co.), Clark noted, "Ducks, Pliver of different Kinds are on those Ponds [beaver ponds on Nebraska side] as well as on the river" (Moulton 1986, 483, 484–485[n]). The note says, "The 'Ducks, Pliver' and the like are not identifiable, but one naturalist [Swenk] speculates that the former was the wood duck...." Ducks were noted on 5 Sep 1806 (Monona Co.) as noted above under Canada Goose.

Bald Eagle. For 5 Sep 1806, Clark noted, "Eagles" (see under ducks above). Swenk (1935) concludes that the eagles were undoubtedly Southern Bald Eagles, but maybe they were not eagles at all.

Hawk species. For 5 Sep 1806, Clark noted "Hawks" (see under ducks above). Swenk (1935) concluded that they were possibly Red-tailed Hawks.

Ruffed Grouse. For 25 Jul 1804, Clark noted, "Several Grouse Seen to day" (Moulton 1986, p 419[n]). It is not clear whether Clark saw these birds at the campsite in Pottawattamie Co., IA, or whether they were seen by a party sent to find Indians on the Nebraska side. Moulton (footnote) as well as Cutright (1969) and Swenk (1935) suggest that they were probably this species; whereas, Zwickel and Schroeder (2003) indicate that Lewis and Clark called Greater Prairie-Chickens "grouse" and called Ruffed Grouse "pheasants."

Greater Prairie-Chicken. In notes made by Clark, but not in the main journal, Clark states, "The Prairie Fowl common to the Illinois are found as high up as the River Jacque [James River in South Dakota] above which the Sharpe tailed Grows [grouse] commence." (Thwaites 1905, p 121; Moulton 1993, p 416). On 8 Aug 1804, Lewis noted, "The prairie hen or grouse, was seen in the prairies between the Missouri and the river platte (Moulton 1986, p 462). The location would have been in Sarpy Co., NE, and, perhaps, the same birds Clark noted on 25 Jul 1804 (see Ruffed Grouse above).

Wild Turkey. For 25 Jul 1804 (Pottawattamie Co.), Clark noted, "Som Turkey & Gees Killed to day" (Moulton 1986, p 429). Ordway noted, "Jo Fields killed 1 Turkey to day" (Moulton 1995, p 30). And Whitehouse noted, "Jo F 1 Turkey" (Moulton 1997, p 44). Turkeys were mentioned on 26 Jul 1804 (Mills Co.) by Ordway and Whitehouse; on 30 Jul 1804 (Pottawattamie Co.) by Clark; on 5 Aug 1804 (Harrison Co.) by Clark, and on 9 Aug 1804 (Harrison Co.) by Clark, Ordway, and Gass.

Cranes. For 8 Aug 1804, Lewis noted, "we had seen but a few fowls of any kind on the river since we commenced our journey up the Missouri,...& crains of several kinds which will be discribed in their respective places —" (Moulton 1986, pp 459–460). Other than the herons mentioned above, there is no further information on "cranes" in Iowa.

Plover species. For 15 Aug 1804 (Woodbury Co.), Clark noted, "in this creek which is only the pass or Streight from Beaver Pond to another, is Crouded with large Mustles

Verry fat, Ducks, Pliver of different kinds are on those Ponds as well as on the river" (Moulton 1986, pp 483, 494-485 [n]). The note indicates that "one naturalist speculates that...the latter either the lesser gold-plover...or black-bellied plover...or 'some other species of plover-like shore bird' Swenk, 121-122." The date and habitat could have provided a wide variety of shorebirds that Clark would have been unprepared to identify. Most were probably in Nebraska.

Piping Plover. In notes made by Clark, but not in the main journal, Clark lists, "Indian Hen & Small Species of kildee which frequent drift is found as high up as the Entrance of the Little Sioux river" (Thwaites 1905, p 122; Moulton 1993, p 416). Swenk (1935) concludes that the little killdeers "quite likely" refer to Piping Plovers.

Least Tern. For 5 Aug 1804 (Harrison Co.), see below. This account is from Meriwether Lewis's natural history notes in codex Q. He did not name the bird, but Elliott Coues (1893) identified it as *Sterna antillarum* (Least Tern), and Curright (1969) considered it the only new species discovered in Iowa by Lewis and Clark. Here I paraphrase most of Lewis's description from 5 August 1804 at the level of Harrison County, Iowa (see Moulton 1986, pp. 450-451 for original wording).

I have frequently observed an aquatic bird in the course of ascending this river but have never been able to procure one before today. This day I was fortunate to kill two of them. They are more plentiful than on the river below. They lay their eggs on sand bars without shelter or nest, and produce their young from the 15th to the last of June. The young ones, of which we caught several, are covered with yellowish white down with some small specks of dark brown on the back. They bear a great resemblance to young ten-day old quail and appear, like them, to be able to run about and peck their food as soon as they are hatched. This bird lives on small fish, worms, and bugs, which it takes on the verge of the water. It is seldom seen to alight on trees and quite as seldom to alight on water and swim, although the foot would indicated that they did, it being webbed. I believe them to be a native of this country and probably a constant resident.

The weight of the male is 1.5 ounces and length from beak to toes 7.5 inches. It measures 19.5 inches from wing tip to wing tip. The beak is 1/8 inch long [or wide?], larger where it joins the head, flattened on the sides, tapering to a point, a little declining and curved, a fine yellow with a shade of black on the extremity of the upper beak. The eye is prominent, black, and on an angular scale of one-half inch. The occiput is 3.5 inches wide. The upper part of the head is black from the beak as low as the middle of the eye and a little below the joining of the neck, except for some white which joins the upper part of the beak and extends and forks over the sides of the forehead, terminating above each eye. The under parts of the bird, that is the throat, cheeks as high as the eye, neck, breast, belly, and under part of the wings and tail are of fine white. The upper part of the neck, back, and wings are of a fine quaker color or bright dove with rather more of a bluish tint, except, however, the three first or larger feathers in the wing, which on the upper side are deep black. The wing has four joints: (1) 1.5 inches, a clump of feathers loosely connected with the flesh of the wing that are 1.5 inches long; (2) 2 inches, 16 feathers that are 2 inches long; (3) 1.5 inches, 7 feathers that are 2.5 to 4.5 inches long; and (4) 3/4 inch, 3 feathers 5.5 inches long.

The tail has 11 feathers, the outer of which are an inch longer than those in the center, gradually tapering inwards, which gives the tail a forked appearance like that of

a swallow. The largest outer feather is two and 3/4 inches, that of the shortest 1 3/4. The leg and thigh are 3 inches long, the leg occupying one-half the length. The thigh is covered with feathers except about 1/4 inch above the knee. The leg is bright yellow and nails long sharp and black. The foot is webbed and has three toes forward. The heel or back toe is fixed to the leg above the palm of the foot, and is connected by a web to the other toes. It has no nail. The wings when folded lap like those of a swallow and extend at least 1.5 inches beyond the tail.

This bird is very noisy when flying, which is done extremely swiftly. The motion of the wings is much like that of a killdeer. It has two notes, one like the squeaking of a small pig, only on a high 'kee', and the other kit'-tee'-kit'-tee' — as near as letters can express the sound. The beak of the female is black and the back and quaker color of the male in her is yellow brown mixed with dove color.

Carolina Parakeet. In notes made by Clark, but not in the main journal, Clark lists, "Parotqueet is Seen as high as the Mahar Village [Woodbury Co.]" (Twaites 1905, p 122; Moulton 1993, p 416). Even though parakeets are not mentioned in the daily journals for Iowa, they were encountered in Missouri and would have been easy to identify. Thus, Clark's summary statement is likely correct.

Swallow species. For 5 Aug 1804 (Harrison Co.), Ordway noted, "...proceeded along the Bank of a large prairie one of the men kild a large spotted bull Snake under the bank a number of birds which live in the bank flying about this Snake it is supposed the Snake charm them." Moulton 1995, pp 34-35 [n]. The note says "probably the bank swallow...." Swenk (1935) accepts these as Bank Swallows without comment, but why couldn't they have been Northern Rough-winged Swallows?

Lewis and Clark provided the first detailed descriptions of Iowa birds (Least Tern, Great Egret, and American White Pelican) and probably should be credited with observing Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Piping Plover, Carolina Parakeet, and Wild Turkey. Undoubtedly, Lewis saw but did not mention other species of birds in Iowa that he was already familiar with. Lewis did not keep a log during their time in Iowa (or it was lost), but he did write the documentations noted above and made other notes on natural history.

A swan noted by Lewis on 4 July 1804 in a lake opposite the mouth of 4th of July Creek would have been in Kansas (Moulton 1986, p 432), not in Iowa on 30 July 1804 as mistakenly interpreted by Ambrose (1996, p 150).

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Field Reports — Spring 2003

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WEATHER

March began with temperatures colder than most of the previous mild winter. In contrast, the rest of March was warmer than normal, with Clarinda reaching 81 degrees by the 15th. The state continued to receive little precipitation in March; the period November 2002 through March 2003 was the second-driest five-month period ever. April continued warm except for a major winter storm on the 6th and 7th that dropped 6 to 12 inches of snow over the northwest half of the state (Normal April snowfall averages less than 2 inches!). Frequent rainfall later in April brought soil moisture levels back to almost normal over most of Iowa. May was cooler than normal, with widespread temperatures in the 80s not occurring until the end of the month. Frequent rainfall continued during the first

half of May, causing flood conditions in some areas that experienced drought early in the spring, but the state dried to normal by the end of the month.

GENERAL TRENDS

Waterfowl were reported widespread by mid-March, but otherwise not much was noted. There were several reports of large numbers of birds at feeders and along roadways after the April snowstorm, but no real rarities turned up. The “drought to flood” conditions in the southern half of the state made for some good shorebird habitat, with conditions, species mix, and numbers changing almost daily. The stormy weather of early-to-mid May grounded passerine migrants repeatedly and gave a general feeling of “good” warbling. In a negative trend, winter finches, including Purple Finches, were still conspicuous by their absence.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Easily the most spectacular bird of the season, a male Hooded Oriole was found and photographed by 6-year-old Morgan Meienche at her home between Dunkerton and Fairbank. This oriole has rarely ventured north of its South Texas home. Other Accidental or Casual species reported were Barrow's Goldeneye, Whimbrel, Ruff, Little Gull, Black-headed Gull, Fish Crow, Common Raven, Townsend's Solitaire, Bohemian Waxwing, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Lazuli Bunting.

Other species of interest: Pacific Loon, Mississippi Kite, Prairie Falcon, Black-necked Stilt, Barn Owl, Burrowing Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Varied Thrush, and Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warbler.

Although technically not a sighting because nobody saw them, a visit to northeastern Iowa by young Whooping Cranes gives encouragement that this regal species may one day return as a regular part of our avifauna.

SPECIES DATA (* = documented)

ALL CAPS = Casual or Accidental species
(List = IABird Listserv)

Pacific Loon: A record early bird in alternate plumage 6 Apr at Saylorville Res. could not be relocated (*RLC). This was the fifth spring record and the third in the last five years.

Common Loon: First: 27 Mar at Mason City (RGo, CJF). The most reported was 60 on 1 Apr at Iowa L. in Emmet Co. (Craig Zoellner fide PH). Last: A first-summer bird 29 May at Waterworks Park in Des Moines (Pam and Reid Allen-List). There were about a dozen other reports of up to 15 birds.

Pied-billed Grebe: First: 22 Mar in Marshall Co. (MPr, BPr) and 2 on 23 Mar at Clear L. in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Horned Grebe: First: 29 Mar at Little Wall L. in Hamilton Co. (HZ). Most: 22 on 11 Apr at Black Hawk L. in Sac Co. (RTh) and 22 on 20 Apr at L. Manawa in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP, LJP). Last: 23 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo). There were six other reports of 1 to 7 birds.

Red-necked Grebe: All: 11 Apr at Twelve Mile L. in Emmet Co. (LAS), 21 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF, RGo), 10 May at L. Macbride in Johnson Co. (CE, JLF, THK), 10–11 May at Anderson L. in Hamilton Co. (Jeff Nichols, MO-List), and 1–3 birds 16–31 May at Cheever L. in Emmet Co. (ETH, LAS).

Eared Grebe: First 22 Mar at Spirit L. (LAS). Most: 23 on 12 May at Swan L. in Carroll Co. (JJD, SJD). Last: 31 May at Twelve Mile L. (LAS). There were eleven other reports of up to 11 birds.

Western Grebe: All: 25 Apr at Bacon Creek Pk. in Woodbury Co. (GLV, BFH), 5–12 May at Clear L. (RGo, CJF, PH), 6 May at Coralville Res. (THK), 3 on 6 May at Trumbull L. in Clay Co. (LAS), 2 on 10 May at Elk L. in Clay Co. (LAS), and 1–2 on 25–31 May at Grover's L. in Dickinson Co. (PH, ETh).

American White Pelican: The most reported was 300 on 19 Apr at Sedan Bottoms in Appanoose Co. (RLC). 149 on 23 Apr near Lansing was considered a high count for that area (FL).

Double-crested Cormorant: First: 3 on 22 Mar at Hendrickson M. in Story Co. (SSP). Most: 2,000 on 20 Apr at L. Manawa (BKP, LJP). Fifty birds were counted 14 May around a 32 nest rookery at Coralville Res. (CE).

American Bittern: There were about twenty reports. First: 5 Apr at Otter Creek M. in Tama Co. (RV, CV). The highest count was at Hanlontown Sl. in Worth Co., where 4 were located 25 Apr (PH, RGo). All reports after mid-May were from the northern two tiers of counties.

Least Bittern: All: 20 May at Eagle L. in Hancock Co. (RGo, MCK), 24 May at Cardinal M. in Winneshiek Co. (DeC), 2 on 25 May at Banner W.A. in Warren Co. (JSi), and 31 May at Jemmeron Sl. in Dickinson Co. (JVD).

Great Blue Heron: First: 3 Mar at L. Ahquabi in Warren Co. (JSi). Eighty-eight nests were counted 5 Apr at a rookery on the Middle R. in Warren Co. (JSi).

Great Egret: First: 22 Mar at Red Rock Res. (AB). Few were reported, with the high count 10 on 17 Apr at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. (GLV).

Snowy Egret: All: 15–21 Apr at Mallard M. in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo, CJF, PH), 18 Apr at Spirit L. (ETh), 20 Apr at Corydon Res. in Wayne Co. (AB), 2 on 20 Apr at L. Manawa (BKP, LJP), 6–9 May at Long Pond in Guthrie Co. (AB, JJD), and 10 May at Barringer Sl. in Clay Co. (LAS).

Little Blue Heron: All: An adult 3 May at Diehl Pond in Warren Co. (JG-photo), a calico bird 8–9 May at Banner W.A. (AB), and 25–26 May at Polk City W.A. in Polk Co. (Richard Miller-List, DT).

Cattle Egret: First: 4 Apr at Squaw Creek Pk. in Linn Co. (MCD). Most: 20 flying over Diehl Pond 9 May (AB). Last: 5 on 12 May in Winnebago Co. (CJF). There were 10 other reports of 1–6 birds.

Green Heron: First: 16 Apr in Lucas Co. (AB).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Reported from a dozen locations. First: 21 Apr at Anderson L. (MPr, BPr). Most: 12 on 11 May at Dugout Creek in Dickinson Co. (ETH).

White-faced Ibis: All: 23 Apr in Warren Co. (JG-photo), 27 Apr at Dunbar Sl. in Greene Co. (JJD), 5 May in Woodbury Co. (JJD), 8–11 May at Long Pond (AB, JJD, RLC), 12 May in Monona Co. (SJD), and 13 May at Secret L. in Fremont Co. (AB, SJD).

Turkey Vulture: First: 2 on 4 Mar at Pine Lake SP in Hardin Co. (MPr). An active nest was found 31 May in Warren Co. (JSi).

Greater White-fronted Goose: There wasn't a repeat of last year's big numbers. First: 22 on 11 Mar at L. Manawa (BKP, LJP). Most: 400 on 19 Mar at Union Slough NWR. (MCK) and 400 on 22 Mar at Union Hills in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Two stragglers were at Dugout Creek on 31 May (ETH).

Snow Goose: The peak counts were: 10,000 on 16 Mar at Dunbar Sl. (RTh), 9,000 on 22 Mar at Red Rock Res. (AB), and 10,000 on 23 Mar in Wayne Co. (AB). Late on 31 May: 2 at Hickory Grove Pk. in Story Co. (HZ) and 5 at Dan Green Sl. in Clay Co. (LAS).

Ross's Goose: The number of reports continues to increase, as does the peak numbers of birds: 131 on 23 Mar in Wayne Co. (AB), and 86 on 6 Apr at Jester Pk. in Polk Co. (BE).

Mute Swan: A pair seen 18 May at Dudgeon L. in Benton Co. on an IOU Spring Meeting field trip were likely the same pair seen at this location last fall (mob).

Trumpeter Swan: Many banded swans from reintroduction projects were reported. Unbanded birds were: 3 on 14 Mar–10 Apr at Swan L. in Carroll Co. (RTh), 3 on 19 Mar at Goose L. in Clinton Co. (PVN), and 27 May near St. Joseph in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

Tundra Swan: First: 1 Mar at Wexford (FL). A good flight through northcentral Iowa peaked 29 Mar with 92 at Little Wall L. (JJD) and 88 at Zirbel Sl. in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo). Last: 11 on 20 Apr at Grover's L. (ETH).

Gadwall: Most: 184 on 8 Apr in Marion Co. (AB).

American Black Duck: All: 2 on 10 Mar at Diamond L. in Poweshiek Co. (MPr), 2–3 on 15–16 Mar at Clear L. (CJF, PH), 21 Mar at Ada Hayden Pk. (formerly Hallett's Quarry) in Ames (SSP, KLP), and 27 Mar at Terra L. in Johnston (JG).

Blue-winged Teal: A drake Blue-winged/Green-winged Teal hybrid was reported 12 May at Dunbar Sl. (SJD), perhaps the first record of this combination from Iowa. Also on 12 May: 457 at Dunbar Sl. and 306 at Riverton W.A. in Fremont Co. were large concentrations for these areas so late in the season (SJD).

Cinnamon Teal: All drakes: 21–22 Mar at Meier County W.A. in Hardin Co. (MPr, mob), 30 Mar at Lost Island L. in Palo Alto Co. (LAS), 19 Apr at Sedan Bottoms (RLC). There was a Cinnamon/Blue-winged Teal hybrid reported 12 Apr at Secret L. (THK).

Northern Shoveler: Most: 886 on 30 Mar at Saylorsville Res. (BE).

Northern Pintail: Most: 750 on 16 Mar at Saylorsville Res. (BE).

Green-winged Teal: Last: 2 on 31 May at Colo Ponds in Story Co. (HZ).

Canvasback: Most: 200 on 17 Mar at Clear L. (PH).

Redhead: Most: 200 on 17 Mar at Clear L. (PH).

Ring-necked Duck: Most: 340 on 16 Mar at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

Greater Scaup: Reported from a dozen locations. First: 7 on 11 Mar at East Okoboji L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS). Most: 12 on 30 Mar at Coralville Res. (MCD). Last: 13 May at Rice L. in Worth Co. (RGo, PH).

Lesser Scaup: Most: 5,000 on 1 Apr at Coralville Res. (CE) and 2,110 on 5 Apr at Red Rock Res. (AB).

Surf Scoter: All: 1 May at Black Hawk L. (RTh), 6 and 10 May at Rathbun Res. (TJ), and 12 May at the MidAmerican Energy Ponds in Council Bluffs (BKP, LJP, SJD).

White-winged Scoter: A female 29–30 Mar at Saylorville Res. (AB, BE) may have been the same bird seen 18 Apr (AB).

Long-tailed Duck: All: 9 Mar at Burlington (TJ), and dozens of birders got stunning views of a drake on a pond at the Jim Fuller residence near Iowa City from 6 Apr–23 May (*JLF, Kent Nickell-photo) [record latest].

Bufflehead: Last: 31 May at Grover's L. (ETh).

Common Goldeneye: 50 were in Allamakee Co. by 1 Mar (FL).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: A drake on 22 Mar at New L. in Woodbury Co. (*BFH) was likely the same bird at that location 9 Feb–4 Apr 2002 and 17–21 Dec 2002.

Hooded Merganser: A hen with 10 young were seen 31 May at D.U. Marsh in Clay Co. (LAS).

Common Merganser: Most: 1,200 on 15 Mar at L. Manawa (BKP, LJP).

Red-breasted Merganser: Most: 199 on 28 Mar at Red Rock Res. (AB) and 171 on 29 Mar at Saylorville Res. (AB). Last: a female on 3 May at West Okoboji L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS).

Ruddy Duck: Most: 1,000 on 5 Apr at L. Manawa (BKP, LJP). Three were still at Banner W.A. in Warren Co. on 24 May (AB).

Osprey: First: 2 Apr at Iowa L. in Emmet Co. (Craig Zoellner fide PH). A new nesting location was observed in May at Runnells W.A. in Marion Co. (AB).

Mississippi Kite: The only report was 9 May near a previous nesting location in West Des Moines (Joseph Kennedy-List) [second earliest].

Northern Harrier: First: 2 on 7 Mar at Owego Wetlands in Woodbury Co. (GLV). Most: 9 on 15 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Last: 31 May at Little Swan L. in Dickinson Co. (KLP).

Cooper's Hawk: An active nest was at L. Ahquabi S.P. (JSi). Two birds on 26 May at A.A. Call S.P. in Kossuth Co. were probable nesters (MCK), and a pair were found nesting 31 May at Silver L. in Palo Alto Co. (LAS).

Northern Goshawk: The only report was 1 Mar in Rick Hollis's yard in Johnson Co.

Red-shouldered Hawk: One that wintered at Johnston was last seen 12 Mar (DT, JG). Single migrants were noted in Davis, Cerro Gordo, and Clay counties (JJD, CJF, RGo, PH, LAS). Also reported from probable nesting areas 4 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. in Van Buren Co. (RLC) and 17 May at Hartmann Nature Reserve in Cedar Falls (mob).

Broad-winged Hawk: First: 16 Apr at Grammer Grove W.A. in Marshall Co. (MPr). Largest flocks noted: 32 on 23 Apr at Mason City (CJF, RGo) and 55 on 30 Apr at Rathbun Res. (AB). Probable nesting birds still found 26 May at A.A. Call S.P. (MCK).

Swainson's Hawk: Six single migrants were noted, the first on 8 Apr at MidAmerican Ponds (BKP, LJP). Pairs exhibiting mating behavior or from known nesting areas: 6 May N of Mason City (CJF), 18 May at Des Moines (Joseph Kennedy-List), and 23 May N of Algona (SSP).

Rough-legged Hawk: Winter birds apparently didn't linger this year. All: 3 and 10 Mar at Otter Creek M. (MPr), 2 on 7 Mar at Owego Wetlands (GLV), 8 Mar in Clinton Co. (PVN), 4 Apr at Algona (MCK), and 11 Apr along I35 north of Des Moines (RGo).

Golden Eagle: Regular winterers noted 9 Mar in Allamakee Co. (LAS) and 2 on 15 Mar at Lansing W.M.A. (FL).

Merlin: Only six noted from 15 Mar at Des Moines (DT) to 9 May at Zirbel Sl. (RGo).

Peregrine Falcon: First: 15 Mar at the Lansing cliff-nest site (FL). There were sixteen single migrants reported, with the last on 12 May at Grammer Grove (MPR, BPr).

Prairie Falcon: One reported without details 6 Mar at Sioux Center (JVD).

Gray Partridge: Reported south to Carroll (RTh) and Story (JJD) counties.

Greater Prairie Chicken: Most: 17–18 birds 12–13 Apr at the Kellerton B.C.A. lek in Ringgold Co. (RLC, CE).

Wild Turkey: A flock at Eugene and Eloise Armstrong's in Madison Co. peaked at 155 birds on 17 Mar (fide DT).

Northern Bobwhite: Most, and farthest north: 7 on 7 May in Carroll Co. (RTh).

Virginia Rail: First: 25 Apr at Hanlontown Sl. (PH, RGo).

Sora: First: 21 Apr at Zirbel Sl. (RGo).

Common Moorhen: All: 25 Apr–13 May at Hanlontown Sl. (PH, RGo, CJF), 7 and 28 May at Cardinal M. (DeC, PH), 9 May at Squaw Creek Pk. in Linn Co. (BSc), 21 May at Goose L. in Clinton Co. (PVN), and 2 on 25 May at Grover's L. (PH).

Sandhill Crane: First: 4 on 15 Mar at Big Marsh in Butler Co. (MPR, BPr). Reports from a dozen locations ranged from previous nest sites to 6 on 17 May near Union Slough NWR (Jim Clark fide MCK) to new nesting at Cardinal M. (DeC) to a nesting pair at Sweet Marsh that was a highlight of the IOU Spring Meeting (mob).

WHOOPING CRANE: Four Whoopers that hatched in 2002 from the reintroduction project at Necedah N.W.R. in Wisconsin flew unseen over northeastern Iowa on 22 May, and were radio-tracked exploring as far west as Decorah in Winneshiek Co. before turning around and

heading back to Wisconsin (Colleen Satyshur, International Crane Foundation intern monitoring the Necedah flock).

Black-bellied Plover: First: 2 May at Hawkeye W.A. in Johnson Co. (JH-List). Most: 12 on 9 May at Sedan Bottoms (RLC). Last: 26 May at Cardinal M. (DeC).

American Golden-Plover: One in alternate plumage was early on 17 Mar at Hoffman Prairie in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF). Most: 73 on 5 May in Boone Co. (AB). Last: 57 on 14 May in Calhoun Co. (MPR, BPr).

Semipalmated Plover: First: 18 Apr at Diehl Pond (AB) and 19 Apr at Owego Wetlands (BH). Most: 100 on 5 May at Hawkeye W.A. (JH-List). Last: 30 May at Clear L. (RGo).

Piping Plover: All: 4 on 7 May at MidAmerican Ponds (BKP, LJP), 10 on 12 May at MidAmerican Ponds (BKP, LJP, SJD), and 3 on 17 May at Sweet M. (RLC).

Killdeer: Most: 115 on 23 Mar at Hawkeye W.A. (CE).

Black-necked Stilt: All: 5 May at New L. (*JJD) and 16 May in Clay Co. (*LAS).

American Avocet: All: 4 on 30 Apr at Woodpecker M. in Wayne Co. (RLC), 4 May at Rathbun Res. (TJ), and 10 and 16 May at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. (GLV, BFH).

Greater Yellowlegs: First: 22 Mar at Diehl Pond (AB). Most: 30 on 22 Apr at Coralville Res. (THK). Last: 30 May at Stoney L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS).

Lesser Yellowlegs: First: 17 Mar at Diehl Pond (JSi). Most: 2,000 on 6 May at Coralville Res. (THK). Last: 27 May at Cardinal M. (DC).

Solitary Sandpiper: First: 19 Apr at Owego Wetlands (BFH). Last: 2 on 24 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Willet: First: 20 Apr at Jester Pk. (BE) and 4 on 20 Apr at L. Manawa (BKP, LJP). Most: 8 on 26 Apr at Rock Creek S.P. in Jasper Co. (AB). Last: 27 May at Rathbun Res. (TJ).

Spotted Sandpiper: First: 2 on 26 Apr at Winterset (MPR).

Upland Sandpiper: First: 13 Apr at Kellerton (CE).

WHIMBREL: Reported 27 May at Cardinal M. (*DHe) [ties second latest].

Hudsonian Godwit: First: 20 Apr in Lee Co. (JLF) and 9 on 20 Apr at Sweet M. (Al Brown-List). Most: 100 on 10 May near MidAmerican Ponds (Janet Greer-List) and 120 on 12 May in Carroll, Monona, and Harrison counties (SJD). Last: 29 May at Rathbun Res. (TJ).

Marbled Godwit: All: 19 Apr at New L. (BFH), 20 Apr at Sweet M. (Al-Brown-List), 20 Apr at Jester Pk. (BE), 20 Apr in Lee Co. (JLF), 29 Apr at Sandbar Sl. in Dickinson Co. (ETh), 12 on 15 May at Owego Wetlands (GLV), and 26 May at Sandhill L. (BFH).

Ruddy Turnstone: First: 11 May at Colo Ponds in Story Co. (HZ) and 12 May in Marshall Co. (MPr, BPr). Most and last: 6 on 26 May at Rathbun Res. (TJ).

Sanderling: First: 20 May at Colo Ponds (HZ). Most and last: 17 on 30 May at Meier Co. W.A. (MPr).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: First: 13 Apr at Hawkeye W.A. (BD-List). Most: 200 on 28 May at Cardinal M. (PH).

Western Sandpiper: A well-described bird 13 Apr at Hawkeye W.A. was the second-earliest on record (JH-details, *MCD).

Least Sandpiper: First: 29 Mar at Cone M. in Louisa Co. (CE). Most: 60 on 12 May at Colo Ponds (HZ). Last: 6 on 31 May at Cardinal M. (DeC).

White-rumped Sandpiper: First: 26 Apr at Diehl Pond (*AB) [record early] and 28 Apr at Pin Oak M. in Lucas Co. (AB) [third earliest]. Most, and the only flock numbering more than 15 birds: 150 on 16 May at Owego Wetlands (BFH).

Baird's Sandpiper: First: 2 on 17 Mar at Diehl Pond (JSi). Most: 40 on 2 May at Hawkeye W.A. (JH-List). Last: 28 May at Cardinal M. (PH).

Pectoral Sandpiper: First: 6 on 16 Mar at Diehl Pond (JSi). Most: 2,000 on 29 Apr at Coralville Res. (THK). Last: 28 May at Cardinal M. (PH).

Dunlin: First: 11 Apr at Coralville Res. (MCD). Most: 120 on 26 May at Rathbun Res. (TJ) and 150 on 26 May at Owego Wetlands (BFH).

Stilt Sandpiper: First and most: 27 on 13 May at Riverton W.A. (AB).

RUFF: A report was referred to the Records Committee.

Short-billed Dowitcher: First: 12 on 10 May in Marshall Co. (MPr, PH). Most: 81 on 13 May at Riverton W.A. (AB). Last: 27 May at Rathbun Res. (TJ).

Long-billed Dowitcher: First: 7 on 10 Apr at Dunbar Sl. (RTh). Most: 156 on 28 Apr at Diehl Pond (JSi). Last: 2 on 7 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF).

Wilson's Snipe: Most: 100 on 12 Apr at Amana L. in Iowa Co. (CE).

American Woodcock: First: 3 on 15 Mar at Swan L. in Carroll Co. (RTh).

Wilson's Phalarope: First: 19 Apr at Brower L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH). Most: 500 on 10 May near MidAmerican Ponds (Janet Greer-List), 123 on 12 May at Riverton W.A. (SJD), and 114 on 12 May at Colo Ponds (HZ).

Red-necked Phalarope: All: 13-20 May at Colo Ponds (JJD, mob), 1-2 birds 23-26 May at Cardinal M. (DeC), and 3 on 24 May at Desoto Bend N.W.R. (Joel Jorgensen-List).

Franklin's Gull: First: 17 Mar at L. Manawa (BKP, LJP). Most: 500 at L. Manawa 20 Apr (BKP, LJP).

LITTLE GULL: There were two reports of this Accidental species: a 1st-year bird 21-23 Apr at Coralville Res (*MCD, *THK, *CE) and an adult 29 Apr at Sandbar Sl. (*ETh).

BLACK-HEADED GULL: An adult was reported record-early on 10 and 12 Apr at Spirit L. (LAS-details, ETh-details).

Bonaparte's Gull: First: 2 April at Saylorville Res. (MPr) and 2 Apr at Clear L. (PH). Most: 25 with the Little Gull at Coralville Res. on 22 Apr (THK). Last: 24 May at New L. (BFH).

Ring-billed Gull: Most: 10,000 on 17 Mar at L. Manawa (BKP, LJP) and 15,000 on 30 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BE).

Thayer's Gull: Only one reported: a 1st-year bird on 8 Apr at Red Rock Res. (AB-details) [third latest].

Lesser Black-backed Gull: An adult was at Coralville Res. on 10 Apr (*JLF, CE-details) [second latest].

Glaucous Gull: A 1st-year bird was record late on 8 Apr at Red Rock Res. (*AB).

Caspian Tern: First: 6 on 30 Apr at Rathbun Res (AB) and 6 on 30 Apr at Dunbar Sl. (RTh). Most: 22 on 25 May at Spirit L. (PH).

Common Tern: 1–6 birds reported 6–30 May from Cerro Gordo, Hardin, Appanoose, and Dickinson counties (RGo, MPr, PH, TJ, LAS).

Forster's Tern: First: 8 on 15 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Most: 100 on 5 May at Clear L. (PH).

Least Tern: Three had returned to MidAmerican Ponds by 10 May (BKP, LJP).

Black Tern: First: 6 on 5 May at L. Meyer in Winneshiek Co. (Larry Reis fide DC). Most: 65 on 30 May at Stoney L. (LAS).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: These were new yard birds for Lee Schoenewe in Spencer and Ann Johnson in Warren Co. One in Bode, Humboldt Co., probably demonstrates expansion from the established birds in Rutland (*JN). They were also reported from eight additional counties.

Black-billed Cuckoo: The first reported bird was found by Jim Sinclair 18 May at Dudgeon L. (mob). Five more singles were reported during the season.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: First: 14 May in Calhoun Co. (MPr, BPr) and 15 May at Shimek S.F. in Lee Co. (CE). Most: 3 on 26 May in Van Buren Co. (RLC).

Barn Owl: Only report: 26 Apr in Tama Co. (AB).

Burrowing Owl: One reported 13 May at a nest site in Fremont Co. (SJD). This the first sighting for this declining species away from its 1998-2001 run in Lyon Co.

Long-eared Owl: Only report: 5 on 5 Mar at Swan L. in Carroll Co. (RTh).

Short-eared Owl: All: 2 on 22 Mar at Rathbun Res. (RLC, TJ) and 2 on 30 Mar in Worth Co. (PH).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: All: 1 Mar at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr), 9 Mar at Hawkeye W.A. (CE), 2 on 11 Mar at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr), and 22 Mar in Clay Co. (LAS).

Common Nighthawk: First: 9 May at Iowa City (JPB). Most: 50 on 22 May at Davenport (DDo) and 70 on 26 May at Algona (MCK).

Chuck-will's-widow: One discovered by Paul Egeland on 26 May at Rathbun Res. was still present beyond the end of the period (TJ, AB).

Chimney Swift: First: 13 Apr at Burlington (Chuck Fuller-List).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: First: 28 Apr at Burr Oak (Lee Zeike fide DC).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: A pair were at a nest hole at Oak Grove Pk. in Sioux Co. on 3 May (JVD). Late May sapsuckers at Cardinal M., Eagle L. in Hancock Co., Spencer, Bacon Creek Pk., and Dickinson Co. (JJD, MCK, RGo, LAS, GLV, SSP) were all possible nesters.

Pileated Woodpecker: An active nest was found 30 Apr at A.A. Call S.P. (MCK).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: First: 30 Apr at Dunbar Sl. (RTh) [third earliest]. Last: 25 May at Cairo Woods in Louisa Co. (MCD).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: First: 2 on 14 May in Carroll Co. (RTh). Most: 6 on 25 May at Sedan Bottoms (RLC). Still present 31 May at Mason City (RGo).

Acadian Flycatcher: First: 9 May at Woodland Mounds Preserve in Warren Co. (AB). In the west, 2 were at Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. on 25 May (Mark Orsag-List).

Alder Flycatcher: First: 20 May at Eagle L. in Hancock Co. (MCK, RGo). Still present 31 May at Mason City and Algona (RGo, MCK).

Willow Flycatcher: First: 14 May at Coralville Res (CE).

Least Flycatcher: First: 28 Apr at Parker's Woods in Mason City (RGo). Most: 29 on 14 May at Burt L. in Kossuth Co. (MCK). Still present 31 May at Mason City and Algona (RGo, MCK).

Eastern Phoebe: First: 2 on 16 Mar at Rathbun Res. (RLC) and 3 on 16 Mar in Madison Co. (DT).

Great Crested Flycatcher: First: 5 May at Mason City (RGo, PH).

Western Kingbird: First: 4 on 7 May at MidAmerican Ponds (BKP, LJP) and 2 on 7 May in Mills Co. (BKP, LJP). Farther east: 16 May at Coralville Res. (THK, JLF, PH), 24 and 29 May on the state capital grounds in Des Moines (BE, Pam and Reid Allen-List), and 28 May in Clay Co. (LAS).

Eastern Kingbird: First: 19 Apr at Sedan Bottoms (RLC).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Mike Overton reported one flew in front of him on 2 May while he drove on I35 in Warren Co. (MO-List).

Loggerhead Shrike: First: 17 Mar in Boone Co. (SSP, KLP). Shrikes were not reported west of a Taylor to Carroll to Kossuth County line, but there were reports from 20 counties.

Northern Shrike: All: 15 Mar at Pleasant Creek S.R.A. in Linn Co. (BSc) and 23 Mar in Allamakee Co. (Ric Zarwell-List).

White-eyed Vireo: All: 2 on 9 May at Walnut Woods (DT), 15 May at Shimek S.F. in Lee Co. (CE), 16 May at Pine Lake S.P. (MPr), 17 May near Gilbertville (DAK), 18 May at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr), and 25 May at Cairo Woods (MCD).

Bell's Vireo: There were reports from 11 counties. Most: 6 on both 16 and 26 May in Van Buren Co (RLC).

Yellow-throated Vireo: First: 5 May at Mason City (RGo, PH).

Blue-headed Vireo: First: 28 Apr at Parker's Woods (RGo). Last: 29 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo).

Warbling Vireo: First: 23 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (*EL) [ties second earliest].

Philadelphia Vireo: First: 5 May at Parker's Woods (PH). There were 10 other reports with a peak of 6 on 25 May at Sedan Bottoms (RLC).

Red-eyed Vireo: First: 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF) and 27 Apr at Eagle L. in Kossuth Co. (MCK) [ties second earliest].

FISH CROW: A report was referred to the Records Committee.

COMMON RAVEN: A report was referred to the Records Committee.

Purple Martin: First: 4 on 2 Apr at Grimes (John Bissell-List).

Tree Swallow: First: 3 on 23 Mar at Hawkeye W.A. (CE).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: First: 2 on 16 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH) and 8 on 17 Apr at Diamond L. (MPr).

Bank Swallow: Most: 1000 on 4 May at Bacon Creek Pk. (BFH).

Cliff Swallow: Most: 500 on 16 May at Decorah (DeC).

Barn Swallow: First: 2 on 1 Apr at Guttenberg (DAK).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: All: 4 on 13 Mar at Sheldon (LAS), 18 Apr at Swan L. in Carroll Co. (RTh), 23 Apr at Mason City (CJF), 26 Apr at Guttenberg (DAK), and 28 Apr at Mason City (RGo).

Brown Creeper: Last: 31 May at Liscomb (MPr).

Carolina Wren: About 20 were reported SE of a Winneshiek to Story to Guthrie County line. Numbers appear to be increasing after a couple of mild winters. In the west: 31 Mar at South Ravine in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

House Wren: First: 13 Apr at Hawkeye W.A. (RGo).

Winter Wren: First: 9 Mar at Montrose probably wintered in the area (TJ), but one 13 Mar at A.A. Call S.P. was a migrant (MCK). Last: 30 Apr at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Sedge Wren: First: 2 on 27 Apr at Myre Sl. in Winnebago Co. (PH).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Last: 5 May in Lucas Co. (AB).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First: 2 Apr at Hawkeye W.A. (CE). Last: 21 May at Liscomb (MPr).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: First: 4 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (Chuck Fuller–List) [record early].

Eastern Bluebird: Six on 1 Mar at Wexford were new migrants (FL).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: Reported 30 Mar near Cherokee (Dick Bierman–details–List).

Veery: First: 1 May at Hickory Hill Pk. in Iowa City (*BD) [ties second earliest]. Most: 4 territorial birds on 20 May at Stephens S.F. in Lucas Co. (AB). Possible nesters on 31 May were at Ft. Defiance S.P. in Emmet Co. (LAS) and Amana Nature Trail in Iowa Co. (CE).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: First: 5 May at Brookside Pk. in Ames (KLP, SSP). Most: 6 on 14 May in Carroll Co. (RTh). Last: 25 May at Hitchcock N.A. (Mark Orsag–List) and 2 on 26 May at Owego Wetlands (BFH).

Swainson's Thrush: First: 4 May at Urbandale (BE). Most: ~30 on 14–15 May at A.A. Call S.P. (MCK). Last: 29 May at White Preserve in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo).

Hermit Thrush: First: 2 on 2 Apr at Parker's Woods (PH). Most: 6 on 8 Apr at Swan L. in Carroll Co. (RTh). Last: 2 on 1 May at A.A. Call S.P. (MCK).

Wood Thrush: First: 27 Apr at Sedan Bottoms (RLC). Several observers noted this species as common this spring.

Varied Thrush: One that wintered in the yard of Megan Whitaker in Sioux Rapids was last seen 8 Mar (fide LAS).

Gray Catbird: First: 30 Apr in Appanoose Co. (AB).

Northern Mockingbird: Reported from 9 counties in the southern half of the state.

Brown Thrasher: One on 6 Mar near Ames (Jason O'Brien fide JJD) may have wintered, while known wintering birds stayed until 4 Apr at Iowa City (JLF) and 15 Apr at Mason City (CJF). One on 2 Apr at Stephens S.F. (AB) may have been an early migrant.

American Pipit: First: 18 Mar at Mason City (PH). Most: 7 on 8 Apr in Lucas Co. (AB). Last: 15 May at Smith W.A. in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 11 Mar at Marble Beach on Spirit L. (LAS–details).

Blue-winged Warbler: First: 1 May at L. Macbride (CE) and Parker's Woods (RGo). Late birds in the west: 27 May at Buena Vista County Pk. (SSP) and 31 May at Loess Hills W.A. in Monona Co. (GLV).

Golden-winged Warbler: First: 3 May at Gull Point on Spirit L. (LAS). Most: 5 on 12 May at Rathbun Res. (AB) and 5 on 15 May at Smith W.A. (MCK). Last: 26 May at Parker's Woods (RGo).

Tennessee Warbler: First: 4 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Most: 150 at Eagle L. in Hancock Co. (MCK, RGo). Last: 31 May at Sioux Center (JVD) and 2 on 31 May at Algona (MCK).

Orange-crowned Warbler: First: 23 Apr at North Twin L. in Calhoun Co. (MPr, BPr). Most: 17 on 12 May at Yellow Smoke Pk. in Crawford Co. (SJD). Last: 16 May at Pine L. S.P. (MPr).

Nashville Warbler: First: 28 Apr at Stephens S.F. (AB). Most: 20 on 14 May at Hickory Hill Pk. (CE). Last: 29 May at White Preserve (RGo).

Northern Parula: First: 17 Apr at Red Rock Res. (AB) and 18 Apr at Walnut Woods (JG). Ten were found 9 May in Lee and Van Buren counties (RLC).

Yellow Warbler: First: 1 May at L. Macbride (CE).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: First: 2 on 5 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Most: 15 at Hickory Hill Pk. (CE) and 10 at Effigy Mounds in Allamakee Co. (FL), both on 14 May. The last was at Parker's Woods on 31 May (RGo).

Magnolia Warbler: First: 9 May at Parker's Woods (RGo). Most: 10 on 20 May at Eagle L. in Hancock Co. (MCK, RGo). Last: 28 May at Parker's Woods (RGo).

Cape May Warbler: First: 5 May at Mason City (CJF). Counts of 16 and 14 on 17 May at Sweet M. (MCK, RLC) and 10 on 20 May at Eagle L. in Hancock Co. (MCK, RGo) were much higher than usual. The last was at Smith W.A. on 26 May (MCK) [ties second latest].

Black-throated Blue Warbler: First: a male 9 May at Walnut Woods (DT). On 15 May, a female was in Carolyn Fischer's yard in Mason City (CJF, RGo) and a male was in Dennis Henrickson's yard in Emmet Co.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: First: 13 Apr at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR) and 14 Apr in Worth Co. (CJF). Most: 100 on 10 May in Johnson Co. (CE). An Audubon's Warbler was documented 11 May at Ledges S.P. in Boone Co. (*MO). Last: a female 26 May into June at Algona (MCK) [third latest].

Black-throated Green Warbler: First: 3 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Last: 25 May at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR).

Blackburnian Warbler: First: 5 May at Parker's Woods (RGo). Most: 6 on 14 May at Effigy Mounds (FL) and 6 on 19 May at Hanging Rock Woods in Johnson Co. (CE). Last: 31 May at Parker's Woods (RGo).

Yellow-throated Warbler: First: 4 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (Chuck Fuller-List) [record early].

Pine Warbler: 3 May in Carolyn Fischer's yard (*CJF).

Palm Warbler: First: 24 Apr in Johnson Co. (THK). Most: 11 on 10 May in Johnson Co. (CE). Last: 24 May at Dickson Timber in Carroll Co. (RTh).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Widely reported this spring. Chris Edwards found 11 in EC Iowa 8–23 May. Most: 7 on 19 May at Hanging Rock Woods (CE). There were 10 other reports of 1–3 birds. Last: 26 May at Smith W.A. (MCK).

Blackpoll Warbler: First: 2 on 4 May at Sedan Bottoms (RLC). Most: 50 on 20 May at Eagle L. in Hancock Co. (MCK, RGo) and 30 on 23 May at Hawkeye W.A. (CE). Last: 2 on 30 May at Mason City (PH).

Cerulean Warbler: First: 7 May at Goeldner Woods in Madison Co. (MPR, BPR). One was out of range 22 May at Bacon Creek Pk. (GLV).

Black-and-white Warbler: First: 26 Apr at Goeldner Woods (MPR). Last: 28 May at Algona (MCK).

American Redstart: First: 29 Apr at Coralville Res. (THK) [ties second earliest] and 1 May at Decorah (DeC).

Prothonotary Warbler: First: 3 on 27 Apr at Sedan Bottoms (TJ). Along the NW edge of their range, two were found 14 May at Merritt Access in Carroll Co. (RTh), at least one pair continues to nest along the Des Moines R. at Algona (MCK).

Worm-eating Warbler: All: 1 at the Croton Unit and 1 at the Donnellson Unit of Shimek S.F. on 15 May (CE).

Ovenbird: First: 26 Apr at Goeldner Woods (MPR) and 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF). Most: 65 on 1 May at Stephens S.F. (AB).

Northern Waterthrush: First: 24 Apr at Hawkeye W.A. (JLF). Most: 7 on 10 May at Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 28 May at Dunbar Sl. (RTh).

Louisiana Waterthrush: First: 3 on 9 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (Chuck Fuller-List). A pair were seen carrying food on 19 May at Rathbun W.A. in Wayne Co. (AB).

Kentucky Warbler: Reported from 11 counties. To the north and west: 24 May at Burr Oak (Lee Zeike fide DC), 25 May at Black Hawk L. (RTh), and 28–29 May at Bacon Creek Pk. (BFH, GLV).

Connecticut Warbler: All: 16 and 19 May at Hickory Hill Pk. (MCD, CE, JH), 17 May at George Wyth S.P. on an IOU field trip in Blackhawk Co. (mob), 4 on 19 May at Hartmann Reserve/George Wyth S.P. (Tom Stone-List), 21 May at L. Darling S.P. in Washington Co. (CE), and 31 May at Parker's Woods (RGo).

Mourning Warbler: First: 14 May at Hickory Hill Pk. (CE). Most: 5 on 26 May at Smith W.A. (MCK). Last: 2 on 27 May at Parker's Woods (RGo).

Common Yellowthroat: First: 2 on 27 Apr at Sedan Bottoms (TJ).

Hooded Warbler: All: 3 May in Warren Co. (JG), 9 May at L. Ahquabi S.P. (AB), 9 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (RLC), 15 May at Shimek S.F. (CE), and 22 May in Dennis Henrickson's grove in Emmet Co.

Wilson's Warbler: One was recorded early on 24 Apr at Brookside Pk. (*KLP). Most: 10 on 23 May at Hawkeye W.A. (CE). Last: 31 May at Rush L. in Osceola Co. (JVD).

Canada Warbler: First: 9 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (RLC) [ties record early]. Most: 5 on 20 May at Eagle L. in Hancock Co. (MCK, RGo). Last: 31 May at Liscomb (MPr, BPr).

Yellow-breasted Chat: All: 25 May at Cairo Woods (MCD) and 31 May in Johnson Co. (CE).

Summer Tanager: First: A female on 5 May at Brookside Pk. (KLP, SSP) and a 1st-year male 8–9 May in Tom Kent's yard in Iowa City. Wanderers in the north were: a female 19 May at Clear L. (*CJF, RGo-details, PH), a 1st-year male on 22 May at Estherville (DHe-details), and a female on 22 May at Two Waters in Worth Co. (RGo-details).

Scarlet Tanager: First: 26 Apr at Croton Unit Shimek S.F. (RIC). Most: 9 on 25 May at Hitchcock N.A. (Mark Orsag-List).

Spotted Towhee: Only one reported: 8 May at Owego Wetlands (GLV, BFH).

Eastern Towhee: A bird showing hybrid characteristics with Spotted Towhee was reported 25 May at Hitchcock N.A. (Mark Orsag-List).

American Tree Sparrow: Last: 20 on 11 Apr at Hawkeye W.A. (CE) and 5 on 12 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Chipping Sparrow: First: 18 Mar at Hawkeye W.A. (*BD).

Clay-colored Sparrow: First: 26 Apr in Madison Co (MPr) and 2 on 27 Apr at Brower L. (BFH). Mostly reported as singles, but there were 6 on 9 May in Warren Co. (AB). Last: 26 May at Smith's Sl. in Clay Co. (LAS).

Field Sparrow: First: 6 on 29 Mar at Big Creek S.P. in Polk Co. (AB).

Vesper Sparrow: First: 3 on 30 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Lark Sparrow: First: 9 Apr at Cone M. (JLF) [second earliest]. Most: 16 on 19 Apr at Sedan Bottoms (RLC).

Savannah Sparrow: First: 3 on 15 Mar in Ringgold Co. (JG) and 2 on 15 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC) [second earliest].

Grasshopper Sparrow: First: 26 Apr at Sedan Bottoms (RLC).

Henslow's Sparrow: Reported from Van Buren, Appanoose, Iowa, Black Hawk, Wayne, Lucas, Ringgold, Tama, Warren, and Polk counties in its normal range (RLC, MCD, CE, Al Brown-List, AB, DT). First: 2 on 18 Apr near Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (Chuck Fuller-List). A single bird was reported from Hanlontown Sl. on 31 May (PH).

Le Conte's Sparrow: All: 30 Mar in Johnson Co. (CE- details), 11 Apr at Pinchey Bottoms in Marion Co. (AB), and 27 Apr at Eagle L. in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: A singing late bird was also seen 28 May at Cardinal Marsh (PH).

Fox Sparrow: One that wintered in John Van Dyk's yard in Sioux Center stayed through March. First migrant: 15 Mar at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR, BPR). Most: 105 on 2 Apr at A.A. Call S.P. (MCK) and 57 on 7 Apr in Sac and Webster counties (AB).

Lincoln's Sparrow: First: 3 Apr in Algona (MCK) and 4 Apr at Ames (JJD). Last: 20 May at Eagle L. in Hancock Co. (MCK, RGo) and at Liscomb (MPR, BPR), and 21 May at Mason City (CJF).

White-throated Sparrow: Last: 2 on 26 May in Clay Co. (LAS).

Harris's Sparrow: Last: 2 on 15 May at Algona (MCK).

White-crowned Sparrow: Most: 80 on 10 May at Rathbun Res. (TJ). Last: 23 May at Hawkeye W.A. (CE).

Dark-eyed Junco: Last: 27 Apr at Mason City (RGo) and 30 Apr at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR).

Lapland Longspur: The largest flocks were reported in the north: 2,100 on 4 Mar in Worth Co. (PH) and 1,000 on 27 Mar in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo). Mid-Iowa flocks numbered 200–600 birds. Last: 12 on 12 Apr in Iowa Co. (RGo).

Smith's Longspur: All: 6 on 23 Mar at Union Hills (RGo, PH), 6 Apr at Dan Green Sl. (LAS), 2 on 7 Apr in Story Co. (KLP, SSP), 20–30 on 13 Apr near Cone M. (Chuck Fuller-List), and 30 on 24 Apr in Johnson Co. (THK) followed by reports of 10–22 at that location on 25 and 26 Apr (CE, JLF, MCD).

Snow Bunting: All: singles 4 Mar in Worth Co. (PH) and 5 Mar in Benton Co. (MCD).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: A male 20 Apr at Tom Johnson's feeder in Mystic tied the record early date.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: The bird from the winter season in Des Moines Co. was last reported 28 Mar (Chuck Fuller-List, THK-photo).

Blue Grosbeak: First: a female on 14 May at Hawkeye W.A. (CE). Reported from Pottawattamie, Woodbury, and Sioux counties in its range. A pair returned to Squaw Creek Pk. in Linn Co. on 25 May (BSc, mob).

LAZULI BUNTING: All: 15 May at Algona (*MCK) [third earliest] and 20–25 May at Spirit Lake, (ETH-photo, *PH).

Dickcissel: First: 3 May at Rathbun W.A. (AB) and 5 May at Jester Pk. (AB). "Large numbers" and "waves" were reported in NW Iowa 24–30 May (KLP, SSP, GLV, JVD).

Bobolink: First: 28 Apr in Lucas Co. (AB) [ties third earliest].

Eastern Meadowlark: First migrants: 26 Mar in Worth Co. (PH).

Western Meadowlark: First singing birds: 5 on 7 Mar at Owego Wetlands (GLV).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Rare in Johnson Co., a male was at Coralville Res. on 10 May and a female was there on 14 May (THK).

Rusty Blackbird: There was one large flock of 400 on 26 Mar at Mallard M. (PH), otherwise up to 37 were reported from a dozen locations.

Brewer's Blackbird: All: 16 on 21 Mar at Medicine Creek W.A. in Wayne Co. (AB), 3 on 29 Mar in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH), 2 on 10 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo), 9 on 11 Apr at Twelve Mile L. (LAS), and 3 on 27 Apr at New L. (BH).

Great-tailed Grackle: Widely reported from marshes in small numbers.

HOODED ORIOLE: A wildly out-of-range male was photographed 25 May at the feeder of Morgan and Judy Meiencke in NE Blackhawk Co. The report was referred to the Records Committee.

Orchard Oriole: First: 28 Apr at Independence (WVD) and 30 Apr at Rathbun W.A. (AB).

Baltimore Oriole: First: 2 on 27 Apr at Sedan Bottoms (TJ). Most: 24 on 16 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (RLC).

Purple Finch: Pairs 14 March at Garnavillo (DAK) and 27 Mar at Cedar Rapids (Dale Fye-List) were the only reports.

Pine Siskin: All: 10 Mar at Sioux City (GLV) and 6 Apr at Algona (MCK).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Reported from Lee, Des Moines, and Iowa counties. Most: 21 on 28 Mar near Port Louisa N.W.R. (MCD).



Little Blue Heron adult at Diehl Wetlands Area, Warren Co. on 5 May 2003. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



Great-crested Flycatcher at Hooper Wildlife Area, Warren Co., IA on 24 May 2003. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



Northern Waterthrush in roadside ditch along 25th Avenue, Warren Co., IA on 27 April 2003. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.

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Report of the Records Committee for 2002

Ann M. Johnson

The Records Committee reviewed 39 records from 2002; of these, 31 were accepted and 8 were not. One old record from 2001 was reviewed for the first time and was not accepted, and one of two previously accepted records of Sprague's Pipit was accepted upon re-review. Crested Caracara was added to the state list (#406; Painted Bunting seen in 2001 was #405).

Committee members for 2002 with years in which their terms expire were Matthew C. Kenne (2002), Paul Hertzell (2003), Jim Sinclair (2004), Thomas H. Kent (2005), Lee Schoenewe (2006), James J. Dinsmore (2007), and Ann M. Johnson (secretary, appointed by the committee). Aaron Brees was nominated by the committee and appointed by the Board of Directors to fill a regular term beginning in 2003.

The availability of the Internet-based reporting form has produced a few documentations from people less likely to report to the committee in the traditional manner. The committee expects the use of this medium to continue to grow.

The four-digit number (year and sequence number) assigned to each record reviewed by the Records Committee is included for future reference. Records are classified as follows: A = Accepted (-S = specimen, -P = photograph, -R = recording, -D = documentation) and NA = Not Accepted. To be Accepted, a record must receive 7 votes on the initial review or 6 votes on a subsequent review. The subcategories A-S, A-P, and A-R indicate that physical evidence supports the identification, and records are subclassified based on a majority vote. References to *IBL* are the page of the Field Reports in *Iowa Bird Life* where the record is cited. P- numbers refer to the IOU Photo File entry number. Published notes and previous citations may contain more details. An * indicates a previously uncited documentation.

2002 RECORDS ACCEPTED

Clark's Grebe: 5 to 8 May at Mt. Pleasant in Henry Co. (02-12, *IBL* 72:158).

White-faced Ibis: 6 Sep at Maskunk Marsh in Mahaska Co. (02-36, *IBL* 73:6).

Brant: 6 Mar at Clear Lake in Cerro Gordo Co. (02-07, *IBL* 72:159) and 19 Oct at Union Grove S. P. in Tama Co. (02-26, P-1013, *IBL* 73:7).

Eurasian Wigeon: 25 to 27 Feb at Swan Lake in Johnson Co. (02-05, *IBL* 72:103).

Barrow's Goldeneye: 9 to 25 Feb at Port Neal in Woodbury Co. (02-04, *IBL* 72:105; relocated on 15 Mar not 27 Apr as erroneously reported in *IBL* 72:160) and 17 to 21 Dec also at Port Neal (02-39, *IBL* 73:33).

Black Vulture: 22 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. (02-24, *IBL* 73:6).

Ferruginous Hawk: 31 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. (02-27, *IBL* 73:9); 13 Nov near Cumming in Warren Co. (02-28, P-1014, *IBL* 73:9); and 23 Nov at Big Marsh in Butler Co. (02-29, *IBL* 73:9).

Crested Caracara: 28 Sep at Storm Lake in Buena Vista Co. (02-30, P-1015, *IBL* 73:9, Lampe 2003).

Whimbrel: 23 May at Riverton A. in Fremont Co. (02-19, *IBL* 72:162) and 27 May at Port Neal in Woodbury Co. (02-20, *IBL* 72:162).

Red Knot: 23 May at Riverton A. in Fremont Co. (02-18, *Richard Trieff, *IBL* 72:162).

Curlew Sandpiper: 6 to 7 May near Red Rock Res. in Marion Co. (02-13, P-1011, *IBL* 72:162, Brees 2003).

Ruff: 28 Jul at Red Rock Res. in Marion Co. (02-23, *IBL* 72:213, Sinclair 2003).

California Gull: 13 Oct at Spirit Lake in Dickinson Co. (02-32, *IBL* 73:12).

Glaucous Gull: 7 Apr at Big Creek S.P. in Polk Co. (02-09, *IBL* 72:163).

Iceland Gull: 10 Feb at L&D 14 in Scott Co. (02-03, *Steve Freed, *IBL* 72:108).

Black-headed Gull: 14 Sep at Spirit Lake in Dickinson Co. (02-31, *IBL* 73:12).

White-winged Dove: 27 to 29 Jun at Clear Lake in Cerro Gordo Co. (02-22, P-1012, *IBL* 72:214).

Selasphorus Hummingbird: 23 Oct at Ames in Story Co. (02-33, P-1016, *IBL* 73:13).

American Pipit: 27 May at Cardinal Marsh in Winneshiek Co. (02-21, *IBL* 72:166).

Bohemian Waxwing: 2 Feb at Waterman Township in O'Brien Co. (02-02, *IBL* 72:111).

Veery: 3 Oct at Mason City in Cerro Gordo Co. (02-37, *IBL* 73:15).

Pine Warbler: 31 Jan at Fort Madison in Lee Co. (02-01, *IBL* 72:111).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: 9 Oct at Union Hills WMA in Cerro Gordo Co. (02-35, *Paul Hertz, *Rita Goranson, *IBL* 73:18).

Lazuli Bunting: 11 May near Sand Creek WMA in Decatur Co. (02-15, *IBL* 72:170); 17 May at Kettleson Hogsback in Dickinson Co. (02-16, *IBL* 72:170); and 18 to 28 May at Ames in Story Co. (02-17, *IBL* 72:170).

2002 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Bar-headed Goose: A commonly held bird in captivity, even free-flying birds are considered to be escapees (02-08, *IBL* 72:157).

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: The committee had various opinions on what these birds might have been but felt that there was not enough detail to fully describe this species (02-25). Photos obtained later showed these birds to be Egyptian Geese.

Clark's Grebe: Different impressions from three different observers had several members feeling that this was perhaps a hybrid Western/Clark's (02-11, P-1010, *IBL* 72:158).

Black-billed Magpie: A second-hand report of a fly-by was suggestive but too brief to be conclusive (02-06, *IBL* 72:110). Original observers are strongly encouraged to submit their own sightings.

Williamson's Sapsucker: The committee thought that based on the description this was most likely a juvenile Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a bird that one member observed at this location on the following day (02-34).

Say's Phoebe: On a split vote, the description left a few nagging doubts with some members (02-10, *IBL* 72:164).

Swainson's Warbler: A brief look and lack of some critical details proved inconclusive (02-14, *IBL* 72:168).

Mourning Warbler: Sketchy details of a record late fall warbler did not address other and perhaps more likely possibilities (02-38, *IBL* 73:17).

OLD RECORDS REVIEWED FOR THE FIRST TIME

Brambling: The brief view and description of an unexpected bird made evaluation difficult. The committee felt that no mention of the white rump, probably the most obvious characteristic of a flying bird, left this one as inconclusive (02-AA).

OLD RECORDS RE-REVIEWED

Sprague's Pipit: This species has been an enigma for past committees and is currently on the Iowa list based on two accepted records from 1998 (98-07 and 98-19). New evidence and arguments were presented to the committee and the two records were re-evaluated at the meeting on 27 Oct 2002. The acceptance of 98-07 was unanimously overturned, but the initial decision on 98-19 was reconfirmed so the species remains on the Iowa list. Future observers should be especially cognizant of potential confusion with juvenile Horned Larks.

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Sinclair, J. 2003. Ruff in Marion County. *Iowa Bird Life* 73:27.

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Success! First Wild Osprey Chick Hatched in Iowa

Ed Thelen

The Osprey pair that has been actively nesting near Spirit Lake, IA the past three years has produced a single chick!

It all began in the summer of 2000. Maury Muhm, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Technician, spotted an Osprey carrying a fish to another Osprey in a nest on a micro-wave tower at Cayler Prairie just west of Spirit Lake. What was first thought to be an active nest with young turned out to be the first stages of nesting. This nest was probably not used that year and the Osprey carrying the fish was probably just part of a bonding ritual. With a spotting scope I could see that the female had a black BT leg band; we later learned that she was banded as a wild fledgling at Carver Park in Carver County, MN in 1997.



Figure 1. Osprey pair near nest, Spirit Lake, IA on 10 July 2003. Photograph by Don Poggensee, Ida Grove, IA.

platform. A single egg was produced but unfortunately never hatched.

In the spring of 2003, she and her mate returned and on June 3rd while on a routine check of the nest I noticed that both adult birds were standing on the nest. This was unusual because in the past one of the birds was always in an incubation posture. After setting up my scope I observed behavior for several minutes that looked like the female was feeding something. Could there be a chick? I was just getting ready to leave when I saw a single Osprey chick raise its head and take a morsel of fish from the parent. It was very exciting to witness the first wild Osprey hatched in Iowa since European settlement.



Figure 2. Iowa's first Osprey nestling in nest on pole, Spirit Lake, IA 10 July 2003. Photography by Terry Heidebrink, Alliant Energy.

She and her mate returned in the spring of 2001 and nested at Cayler Prairie. A storm in early June possibly destroyed the young or eggs if, in fact, there were young or eggs. Whatever happened to the nest, it was soon abandoned. Then in July of 2001 while at a local baseball game, I observed an Osprey pair adding sticks to the ball field lights near the Spirit Lake schools on the south edge of Spirit Lake. The next day I contacted the Iowa DNR wildlife personnel and suggested that this might be a great spot for a nesting-platform pole. With the assistance of Alliant Energy, the wildlife DNR employees installed a pole near the schools.

On 17 April 2002, my 9-year old son Nathan strolled into the kitchen and nonchalantly stated, "Oh Dad, today at soccer practice I saw those Osprey birds on that pole up at the school." I quickly grabbed my camera and we piled in the truck and headed to the school. Imagine my surprise when I saw Osprey BT on the platform while its mate was bringing a stick to the

On July 10th, the Osprey chick was banded with more than 100 people witnessing this historic occasion (Figures 1-4). Then on the morning of July 24th, Tim Waltz, Iowa DNR wildlife employee, observed the Osprey chick lift off the nest and make a successful first flight. The Iowa DNR plans to closely monitor these Osprey and hopefully they will produce many young in the years ahead. With three young also produced this year at Lake McBride it looks like the future is bright for Iowa's Osprey. The increased wetlands and human-made reservoirs and lakes in the state are making the state of Iowa more hospitable to the Osprey.

If you get a chance to visit the Iowa Great Lakes, be sure and stop by to see the Osprey and the platform-nest pole. The nesting platform is about 50 yards south-east of the Spirit Lake Middle School. The school is at the south end of town. Take Hill Avenue (the main street running north and south) south until you come to the two windmills south of the school. The platform pole is between the windmills and the school.



Figure 4. Tim Waltz, Iowa DNR employee, holding Osprey. Pat Schlarbaum, Iowa DNR Osprey Program Coordinator, observing while Terry Heidebrink of Alliant Energy applied band on 10 July 2003. Photograph by Don Poggensee, Ida Grove, IA.



Figure 3. Lowering young Osprey from nest to be banded on 10 July 2003. Photograph by Don Poggensee, Ida Grove, IA

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Records from the Past: Cliff Swallows

Thomas H. Kent

When I began birding in 1949, I remember visiting a barn about one-half mile east of the Iowa-Johnson county line to view the nesting Cliff Swallows. This was the only reliable location for this species in Johnson County. The only other nesting location that I knew of at that time was on the cliffs at Palisades-Kepler State Park in Linn County. Since that time, Cliff Swallows have become abundant nesters on bridges throughout Iowa.

Twenty years before I first saw the swallows at the barn, W. F. Kubichek of Coe College in Cedar Rapids described this site as the largest colony of Cliff Swallows in the state (Kubichek 1929), which I quote in its entirety. The barn still stands (Figure 1), but the swallows and the rest of the farmstead are gone.



Thomas H. Kent



Figure 1. Barn in northwestern Johnson Co. on Grabin Road west of Alpine Avenue where Cliff Swallows once nested. Photograph by T. H. Kent, Iowa City,

“Available literature on the Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon lunifrons*) indicates that at present this species is not as abundant as it was formerly and that no very large colonies have recently been reported from Iowa. A colony worth reporting is located five miles northwest of Oxford, Johnson Co., Iowa. A large barn with its wide eaves has served as a supporting structure for their mud nests for many years. The fact that most of the nests were on the east side of the barn was due, perhaps, to the proximity of a creek in the barnyard. On this side the writer counted 986 nests, while the number on the other side was only thirty-one. Altogether there was [sic] a total of 1,017 nests, the largest colony extant in Iowa or the middle west. In a few places they extended nine nests down on the east side of the barn and in almost every case each was plastered to several others.

Every fall they are broken down by the farmer, not because he dislikes the birds — for he affords them every protection — but to keep the pestiferous English sparrow from taking possession.

Another breeding colony, the previous largest recent nesting site, is described by Oscar P. Allert (*Wilson Bulletin*, vol. XL, p. 197) near McGregor, Iowa, which numbers twenty-seven nests. Many smaller colonies in various parts of the state have been reported by several other observers.”

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Tool Use by Red-headed Woodpecker

Jay Gilliam

On 1 February 2003, I was driving to Hooper Wildlife Area in Warren County to search for Long-eared Owls. I stopped on the way at a small pond at the south end of Annett Nature Center to scan the dead trees for Red-headed Woodpeckers to photograph. There was a Red-headed Woodpecker flying from tree to tree so I set up my spotting scope and camera. I watched as the woodpecker thoroughly searched for food in the cracks, crevices, and small holes in the dead trees. The bird then stopped and lingered at a large hole that had formed in a knot of the main trunk where a branch used to be. It probed the

hole deeply, each time coming up with nothing, but it continued to try to reach something deep within that hole. Just when I thought it was giving up, the bird flew down to a small brush pile, poked around a little, and then flew back up to the hole with a small twig in its bill (Figure 1). It held the twig lengthwise by the end and proceeded to probe around in the hole some more. After a few stabs with the twig, it tossed the twig down to the ground, reached into the hole, and grabbed and swallowed its meal.

Tool use by birds is uncommon and rarely observed or documented. I searched the literature and found references for a few birds that use tools to assist in getting at food sources. Woodpecker Finches are known to use cactus spines or wood splinters to dig grubs and other insects out of holes and from under bark (Tebich et al. 2002). Brown-headed Nuthatches utilize pieces of bark to pry off other bits of bark in search of insects (Pranty 1995). Green Jays in Texas have been observed using twigs to extract food from cracks and crevices (Ehrlich, Dobkin, and Wheye 1988). The New Caledonian Crow also uses twigs and sometimes tapered, serrated leaves to pull grubs from deep within tree trunks (Winkler 2002). Some other birds that use tools include the Green Heron (uses bait to lure small fish within reach) (Cook 2003), Egyptian Vultures along with some crows and gulls (use rocks to open eggs) (Ehrlich, Dobkin, and Wheye 1988), and an American Robin is recorded as having used a twig to sweep aside leaves in search of food (Ehrlich, Dobkin, and Wheye 1988). A Pygmy Nuthatch was observed using a piece of twig to probe in the bark of a tree, dropping it when it was able to peck at the object (Kingery and Ghalambor 2001) and an European Starling was observed using a piece of twig to rake through the dirt and litter (Niemeyer and Kingery 2003).

I couldn't find any references of Red-headed Woodpeckers utilizing tools to probe holes in search of food. Red-headed Woodpeckers are known to cache their food in holes and crevices and in some cases, they seal their caches with chips of wood or twigs. This bird didn't appear to be attempting to seal that big hole with that small twig. It appeared to use the twig as an extension of its bill to probe deeper into that hole and retrieve its meal, then discarded the twig so that it could eat. It was an amazing sight and I'm glad I have a photo to document it!



Figure 1. Red-headed Woodpecker using a stick as a tool in Annett Nature Center, Warren Co., IA on 1 February 2003. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.

LITERATURE CITED

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A Fall Chestnut-collared Longspur in Cerro Gordo County

Paul Hertzell

On 9 October 2002, Rita Goranson and I found a single Chestnut-collared Longspur at the Union Hills Wildlife Management Area in southwestern Cerro Gordo County. The bird, foraging in a field of low, green alfalfa in early evening, announced its presence with a single phrase of its melodious song, delivered on the wing, as it flew away from us. It rose from the alfalfa in front of us, a compact, longspur-sized bird with a short, slightly notched tail, and disappeared to our left in an unhurried, bouncy flight.

The only bird in our area with a similar voice is the Western Meadowlark, which is much larger and flies in a heavier, more direct manner. The voice was a short, but rich sequence of clear, musical tones of varying pitch, with less musical character at the end. It was similar to Western Meadowlark, but the meadowlark has a lower-pitched, more sing-song progression, which I would describe as bubbling quickly in a descent at the end. I have seen and heard Chestnut-collared Longspurs in Minnesota and thought of this species first, but both Rita and I consulted tapes later that evening, and we both agreed the longspur was the correct match, having, in my opinion, less variation in the extremes and a more level ending.

We had been walking the second field of the day looking for Smith's Longspurs. It was a rolling, low-growth alfalfa field with encroaching grass, bordering agricultural lands. The vegetation was a bit too dense for Smith's Longspurs, but with ideal habitat on the decline, we know birds might be found in any sort of short grass field. In fact, the field was more suitable for Chestnut-collared Longspur, although we did not have that bird in mind. Rising (1996) writes that outside of the breeding season they can be found in "short or tall grass and mowed alfalfa."

This record is the first in Iowa in five years, and the first sighting of a fall bird. Because of this, we went over the details of the record very carefully. The species breeds on the Felton Prairie in western Minnesota and west through the Dakotas, eastern Wyoming, Montana, and southern Canada. Although the migration takes place in a straight north-

south direction, the Minnesota and/or Dakota populations could easily produce fall migrants annually in Iowa, especially in the western tier of counties. The date of 9 October fits well with the timing of the fall migration for the species. Janssen (1987) gives latest dates for the southern half of Minnesota as 12 October, 19 October, and 17 November; Tallman (2002) gives South Dakota late dates as 10 October (1982, 1991) and 13 October (1968, 1975). In Nebraska, "departure ends by late October" (Sharpe, Silcock, and Jorgensen 2001).

Finally, it is not unusual to find Chestnut-collared Longspurs in small numbers rather than large flocks during migration. Hill and Gould (1997) report that the species "occurs in small numbers (singly or in groups ≤ 5) during fall migration."

LITERATURE CITED

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Iowa Ornithologists' Union Spring 2003 Business Meeting

17 May 2003

Vice President Hank Zaletel called the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) business meeting held at the Hartman Reserve Nature Center to order at 4 P.M.

Approval of Minutes. The minutes from the 14 September 2002 business meeting were in *Iowa Bird Life* 72(4):238-239. The board approved them 10 November 2002 (*Iowa Bird Life* 73[2]:59).

Treasurer's Report. Rita Goranson, treasurer, reported that IOU has certificates of deposit in the amount of \$31,118.80. The checking account balance is \$15,709.10 and savings account is \$2,018.31. The last journal bill was \$2,000, one shirt bill was \$1,108.76 and the other is \$2,234.48. Our current checking account balance is \$13,420.73.

Registrar's Report. David Edwards was not present but sent a membership report. The new fees for membership have been very successful. They are set as incremental levels and

response has been very good. This year there are 9 Fledglings at \$15 each; 216 Goldfinch, \$20; 44 Bluebirds, \$35; 17 Orioles, \$50; 1 Egret, \$75; 11 Osprey, \$100; and 1 Bald Eagle, \$250. There were 68 family members at \$4 each. Institutions comprised 36 memberships. We still have 60 life members and 15 free subscriptions. We had 65 new members this year including 3 Bluebird, 2 Oriole, and 2 Osprey.

There are quite a few delinquent members from 2002: 2 students, 45 regular members, 16 primary family members, and 16 second-family members.

Records Committee. Ann Johnson reported that Matt Kenne finished his term on the Records Committee and Aaron Brees has been appointed to the committee. The 2002 records are complete with exception of one. The results are on the web site so people can check the status of a submitted record. There also are many reports being submitted online, which simplifies filing a report and provides easy access for the Records Committee. Also the field report editors have access for their use. People can make a printable copy of their documentation for personal use.

Web Resources. Ann Johnson reported that the web site and listserver are operating well. There were some problems last fall when the list provider went bankrupt; however, they didn't charge us for the service. As of 10 May 2003, the membership on the listserv was 281. The service provider will probably be raising the price because it costs more for more than 250. Last year at this time the listserv had about 200 members. During the month of April there were 2,993 unique visitors on the Iowa Birds web site. Top pages visited were the rare bird alert, the listserv, birding Iowa (locations to go birding), Important Bird Areas, and the identification flashcards. The flashcard site was visited a lot during migration.

Hank Zaletel thanked Ann for her considerable work on the web site and listserv.

Nature Store. Ann Johnson said for 2002, it cost \$407 to operate all online resources. The IOU recovered about three-fourths of this amount from the Nature Store, Eagle Optics, and auctions of prints from Don Poggensee.

Archives. Hank Zaletel places every note from the listserv, meetings, updating the list, and questions that people have into the archives at Iowa State University. He also scans about 50 newspapers from Iowa for his job and checks for articles on Iowa birding in the process. He makes copies of these for the archives.

Jim Dinsmore stated that the archives are open to the public Monday through Friday for public viewing. Hank Zaletel stated that they are processed by professional archivists and stored in a climate-controlled building.

Publications. Ann Johnson reported that the Publications Committee was restructured this winter when the previous committee resigned and President Tom Johnson appointed a new committee. The new committee consists of Tom Kent, chair; Jim Dinsmore; Paul Hertzell, editor of *IOU News*; Ann Johnson, webmaster of *Iowa Birds and Birding*; and Kay Niyo, editor of *Iowa Bird Life*. They met by e-mail analyzing current printed and electronic publications and creating a proposal to present to the board. Ann presented the following information to the membership.

The single most important function of the IOU is the publication of the journal. The journal, *Iowa Bird Life*, provides an archived status of the birds and the people who study

them for future researchers. There is no other entity that fills that niche.

The newsletter, *IOU News*, provides a connection for a scattered membership and helps to unite all with similar interests.

The web site, *Iowa Birds and Birding*, is our move into the future by using electronic media to encourage interest in birds by members and nonmembers.

Most of the IOU budget is derived from memberships. A drop/lack of growth in membership in recent years has severely impacted our ability to maintain the status quo in publications. The new Publications Committee has brainstormed ideas for how to best maintain the quality but stay within the budget available from membership revenues.

Our budget is predicated on the philosophy that the baseline should be determined by the dues generated by regular (300) and life (60) memberships and library subscriptions (70) in a given year. Using 2002 numbers as a base (\$8,600), this means the base budget for publications would be as follows:

<i>Iowa Bird Life</i>	
32-page self-cover 6 x 9" (\$1,045/issue)	\$4,180
3rd class postal permit	\$125
Mailing	\$475
Envelops	\$300
PageMaker layout	\$1,200
Maps	\$300
Misc.	\$150
Subtotal	\$6,730
<i>IOU News</i>	
8-page issue x 4 issues	\$1,200
Mailing	\$275
Subtotal	\$1,475
Total minimum basic publication costs	\$8,205

The committee concluded that the smallest possible publications would cost \$6,730 for the journal (a decrease of 114 pages from 2002) and \$1,475 for the newsletter (a decrease of 24 pages from 2002). As discretionary money becomes available, through specified gifts or budgeted by the board of directors in the annual budget, pages could be increased in multiples of four as the budget allows.

IOWA BIRDS AND BIRDING

Web site costs were not included in the basic budget because revenues are nearly equal to costs. However, they are part of the overall publications budget.

IA-BIRD listserv	\$203
Web space	\$84
Database space	\$100
Domain registration	\$20

2002 Revenues = \$302 (Nature store, \$121; Eagle Optics, \$121; auction, \$60)
2003 = All costs are being underwritten by a donor.

What has the committee done to manage revenue vs. expenses?

- Analyzed possible actions for cost savings and effect on quality.
- Both the journal and newsletter editors have changed design and amount of white space to maximize content in each issue.
- The journal was totally redesigned to save pages.
- Estimates were received from printers on the most cost-effective printing costs.
- The journal is now being printed in Boulder, CO at a considerable savings and shipped to Ames for mailing.
- Most significantly, the size of the publications has been decreased.

Iowa Bird Life

242 pages in 2002 (60/issue)

Pages budgeted for 2003: 128 (32/issue) with increments of 4 with a new printer

Potential increases: The increased cost for 48 pages per issue (192 pages/year) would be \$1,960 and for 64 pages/issue (256 pages/year) would be \$2,540.

Obviously the major decrease in pages available for printed media will force some hard choices unless revenues are increased. The following are the committee's proposals for addressing these issues:

- Clarify the committee's responsibilities through amending bylaws (awaiting board approval)
- Establish a realistic annual baseline budget based on preceding year's revenue
- Provide for designated gifts by authors and others toward publications
 - Gifts would include those made to the IOU specifically for publications, portions of general gifts designated by the board of directors to support publications, and voluntary page costs donated by authors or other sponsors. The gifts would be transferred to the editors' accounts so that they know when they can add additional pages.
 - Letters of appreciation to donors on how their gift was used for the benefit of the organization's publications.
- Survey the membership on the importance of various topics in all three publications to help decide what should go to print (survey currently available on the web site and will be mailed to all members with the next journal).
- Continue to explore exclusive electronic publication of some IOU information.
- Encourage an active Membership Committee to increase members and thereby increase revenues.

Conservation Committee. Ric Zarwell, chair, reported that the Conservation Committee had its first meeting just 6 weeks ago. He suggested the best way IOU can participate, as a conservation group, is to support the Important Bird Areas (IBA) program.

A Bird's Eye View. At the April board meeting, Marlene Ehresman gave a presentation about a publication being put together by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. She was conducting fund raising for this booklet and asked if the IOU could make a donation. The amount of \$1,000 was allocated for that purpose at that meeting by using money from a two funds: the book royalty fund and the Adopt-a-Book fund. Because these funds were no longer needed, the board decided at that time that some of it could be used for *A Bird's Eye*

View. A previous board had adopted a rule that “any expenditure over \$500 must be approved by the membership.” As a result, the board of directors contradicted that rule in April. It was decided in today’s board meeting that the Conservation Committee should look into all requests for money, see if IOU should consider them, and make recommendations to the board.

New IOU Merchandise. Linda Zaletel purchased new t-shirts for the IOU. Two styles of light short-sleeved t-shirts and long-sleeved denim shirts with the IOU logo above the pocket are available for purchase. Sizes include small to 3X large. Sales at the spring meeting have been brisk.

Fall Meeting 2003. The fall meeting will be at the Hitchcock Nature Center on 10–12 October. The center is located in the Loess Hills and has a hawk watch every year, which IOU members will enjoy. More information will be provided in the *IOU News*.

Spring Meeting 2004. Shenandoah was suggested for the spring 2004 meeting; however, the fall meeting will be in the same part of the state so a plea was made to the membership for ideas and sponsors.

Old Business. Mark Proescholdt, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers: Dick Tetrault, president; Sharon Stilwell, vice president; Mike Dooley, Linda Zaletel, and Ric Zarwell, board members. It was stated that Mike Dooley is leaving for an internship at the Smithsonian. Bob Cecil was nominated from the floor for a term on the board.

Elected were Dick Tetrault, president; Sharon Stilwell, vice president; and new board members, Linda Zaletel, Ric Zarwell, and Bob Cecil.

New Business. Bob Nickolson from Sioux City is selling the new *Siouxland Bird Guide* for \$3.00. It has a bird checklist, map of the Loess Hills, list of attractions in the area, etc. For more information, contact the Loess Hills Audubon at www.lhas.org.

The Loess Hills Seminar is 30, 31 May and 1 June 2003 at Onawa, Iowa.

Jim Dinsmore reminded members that IOU changed officers midterm and he thanked the mid-term President Tom Johnson and Vice President Hank Zaletel for their service to the organization.

President Dick Tetrault concluded by saying that IOU is a solid organization. IOU has about \$41,000 but was experiencing a cash flow that was increasing at a fast pace. The board addressed the situation by deciding that expenses had to be decreased and cash flow increased. They had to decrease publishing expenses for *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News*. The Publications Committee worked very hard to accomplish this and the first two journals for 2003 are a result of their cost cutting. The board also changed the dues structure to the graduated form and it has been very successful. *IOU News* also will include advertising, which will help defray costs.

Beth Proescholdt moved and Maridel Jackson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Spieker, secretary

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board of Directors Meeting

17 May 2003

The Board of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) met during lunch at the spring meeting at the Hartman Reserve Nature Center in Cedar Falls. Board members present were Hank Zaletel, vice president; Rita Goranson, secretary; Susan Spieker, secretary; and board members Judy Garton, John Rutenbeck, Sharon Stilwell, Dick Tetrault, and Linda Zaletel. IOU members present were Jim Dinsmore, Paul Hertzell, and Ann Johnson from the Publications Committee and Bob Cecil. Hank Zaletel called the meeting to order at 11:45 A.M.

Appointment to NABCI. Linda Zaletel moved and Sharon Stilwell seconded the motion to appoint Jim Dinsmore to the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI). The motion passed. The NABCI is a national plan for formulating state policies for bird conservation.

Larson Memorial. The Leonard A. Larson bequest to the IOU was \$5,000. The Larson family asked if IOU could assist with the sale of a stamp collection that includes stamps related to wildlife. It was decided that it could be advertised on the IOU listserv. It would be done as a courtesy to the Larson Family with any proceeds going to the family.

Expenditures over \$500. At the April board meeting the board of directors allocated \$1,000 for *A Bird's Eye View*. A previous board had passed a motion that "any expenditure over \$500 must be approved by the membership." As a result, the April board decision was in conflict with that policy but it was decided it is too late to correct the problem. The situation will be explained to the membership at the annual business meeting.

To avoid future problems, Hank Zaletel asked that the secretary make sure that all board members be given a copy of the Constitution and the committee bylaws. All board members thought it was appropriate.

The Conservation Committee will be responsible for research and advice on requests for money in the future.

Registrar's Report. David Edwards sent a report on the success of the new graduated dues structure. Highlights included Oriole (\$50), 17; Osprey (\$100), 11, and Bald Eagle (\$250), 1. It has brought in more money than anticipated. This will be discussed in the *IOU News*.

Fall Meeting. Sharon Stilwell reported that the fall meeting will be held at the Hitchcock Nature Center near Crescent, IA on 10–12 October. The center's normal weekend charge is \$1,500, but they will let IOU as a conservation group pay \$1,000. This would include use of the facilities, kitchen, etc. Dick Tetrault moved and Linda Zaletel seconded the motion to hold the meeting there for that cost. The motion carried.

IOU will need to increase the registration fee due to the increased cost. Discussion was held about a creating a meeting fund for the semi-annual meetings. Ric Zarwell deposited \$1,565 from the 2002 fall meeting held in Boone, which was placed in the general fund. It

was agreed that it should be placed into a meeting fund. Dick Tetrault moved and Linda Zaletel seconded the motion to amend the budget so that the money returned from Ric Zarwell from the fall 2002 meeting will become a line item in the budget for a meeting fund. The motion passed. The registration fee for the fall meeting was set at \$10.

It was suggested that IOU invite the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union; they are the largest birding group in that area.

Spring 2004 Meeting. The Shenandoah area was suggested for the spring meeting but some thought it would be unwise to have two consecutive meetings in the same area of the state. Shenandoah will be put on hold until fall 2004. This will be mentioned at the membership meeting this afternoon along with a plea for a group to sponsor the spring 2003 meeting.

Publications Committee. The committee needed a beginning base number to develop their budget. They used the number of memberships last year (360) plus 70 subscriptions and arrived at a baseline budget of \$8,600. In 2002, there were 242 pages published in *Iowa Bird Life*. With the new base budget, only 128 pages can be printed creating a significant decrease in the material that can be published. The same is true for the newsletter; the new base budget will allow about half the number of pages. *Iowa Bird Life* has been redesigned so more material can be placed in less space, but there will still be a significant reduction in pages. Beginning with *IBL* 73(1), Kay Niyo, editor, has had it printed in Colorado, which is cheaper. The new printer can print 4-page increments rather than the previous printer's 16-page increments.

There is a questionnaire on the IOU web site that addresses all the publications. A printed copy of the questionnaire will be sent with the spring journal. The committee is soliciting membership preferences for all of the publications, *Iowa Bird Life*, *IOU News*, and the web site, *Iowa Birds and Birding*.

There was a discussion about disposal of the revenue generated from book sales, sales from the web site, sale of a photograph by Don Poggensee, silent auctions, and newsletter advertising. Hank Zaletel moved and Sharon Stilwell seconded the motion to add the money to the publication fund. The motion passed.

Paul Hertzell explained that because the first issue of the newsletter was published before this year's budget was developed, he exceeded the baseline and will be unable to publish a fourth issue without increased funding. There was discussion about allocating some of the new revenue from the graduated dues into the publication fund. Dick Tetrault moved and Sharon Stilwell seconded the motion to put \$600 from that revenue into publications. The motion carried.

There were questions about how to put more money into the publications budget in the future. It was decided that when members renew they could donate to publications. Dick Tetrault moved and Linda Zaletel seconded the motion to allow people to donate directly to the Publications Committee budget when they renew if they wish. The motion passed.

Dick Tetrault will find out what other states around Iowa are doing with their membership recruitment and publication cost, how they raise income, etc.

Membership Committee. IOU needs to energize the Membership Committee to be more aggressive in selling the IOU. The committee needs to publicize the IOU to increase the

membership. The board nominated for the Membership Committee: Ric Zarwell (chair), Aaron Brees, Karen Disbrow, Rita Goranson, John Rutenbeck, and Hank Zaletel. Linda Zaletel moved and Hank Zaletel seconded the motion that they form the committee. The motion carried.

Publications Committee Bylaws. The board requested one change to the Publications Committee bylaws. Discussion was held on the wording in Section 2 of Committee Structure. New suggested wording is as follows:

2. Two terms shall be staggered, the period of service determined by the chair of the Publications Committee.

Judy Garton moved and Sharon Stilwell seconded the motion to approve the Publications Committee bylaws as submitted, with the change of wording in Section 2 of Committee Structure. The motion passed and the bylaws were returned to the Publications Committee for their approval.

Finance Committee. A new ad hoc Finance Committee was appointed. The members are Dave Edwards, Judy Garton, Rita Goranson, and Linda Zaletel.

Conservation Committee. The ad hoc Conservation Committee was reappointed. Members are Ric Zarwell (chair), Jane Clark, Jim Dinsmore, and Tom Johnson.

Linda Zaletel moved and John Rutenbeck seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed.

Respectively submitted by Susan Spieker, secretary

Special Board Meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

13 July 2003

A special IOU board meeting was held at the Oak Woods Learning Center at Saylorville Lake. President Dick Tetrault called the meeting to order at 12:30 P.M. In attendance were Dick Tetrault; Sharon Stilwell, vice president; and board members Bob Cecil, Judy Garton, Linda Zaletel, and Ric Zarwell. IOU members present were Aaron Brees, Jane Clark, Jim Dinsmore, Karen Disbrow, Dave Edwards, and Ann Johnson. Bob Cecil acted as Secretary in the absence of Sue Spieker.

Treasurer's Report. Dick Tetrault distributed budget information. Linda Zaletel questioned the apparent disparity between membership revenue shown on the July balance sheet and

Registrar Edwards's accounting of paid memberships. Linda Zaletel will discuss this with the treasurer. The registrar's report was deferred until the arrival of Dave Edwards.

Membership Committee. Ric Zarwell reported on the Membership Committee meeting held prior to the board meeting. At the next board meeting, changes to the Membership Committee's bylaws will be recommended, including changes in membership succession. Requested was input into the selection of IOU student scholarships for IOU conferences and memberships. Granting up to 5 scholarships per meeting was proposed. A category of Family Membership at \$35 was discussed, replacing the current method of adding spouses and additional family members. This may also facilitate use of on-line membership renewals and simplify the registrar's job. Automatic credit card renewal of memberships on-line will be initiated. A "young birder's camp" was discussed, as was coordination with county conservation boards on birding outings. Also discussed was better media exposure, review of previous recommendations, and participation in birding festivals. Ric Zarwell estimated budget needs for brochures, posters, information packets, and festival participation at \$500.

Dick Tetrault thanked the committee for their hard work and excellent ideas, adding that this committee is the future of the IOU.

Finance Committee. Linda Zaletel discussed reallocating funds from moribund accounts to other IOU uses, e.g., birdathon fund to the scholarship fund, book royalties to education, endowment project to conferences, and adopt-a-book to conservation. The possibility to raising dues by \$5 was mentioned. Regarding financing of the Publications Committee, Linda Zaletel discussed giving them all the revenue from the \$20 basic membership fee. Additional funds for all committees could be generated from designated gifts above membership. A question was raised about the possibility that some members would simply get a basic membership and designate an additional gift rather than joining at higher membership levels (Bluebird, Oriole, etc.).

Dick Tetrault thanked the committee for its hard work to date.

Fall 2003 Meeting. Sharon Stilwell reported that the meeting had no host, so IOU members would have to do some housekeeping duties. She is planning to send special invitations to new members identified in the latest newsletter, and is also contacting bird clubs statewide to encourage attendance. The fall meeting will be held 10-12 October at the Hitchcock Nature Area near Council Bluffs.

Spring 2004 Meeting. Sharon Stilwell is checking on Cedar Rapids as a possible meeting location. A joint meeting with Missouri was also discussed.

Scholarships. Sharon Stilwell discussed recommendations for up to 5 youth scholarships per IOU conference, adding that the local conference host should have some input into recipients based upon their knowledge of local youth.

Festivals. Sharon Stilwell discussed upcoming birding festivals. At the Saylorville Pelican Festival, booth operators are required to offer family oriented activities. Volunteers are needed. Ric Zarwell discussed the Rivers and Bluffs Fall Birding Festival at Lansing, noting that last

year's festival was successful. Sponsorships are needed, as are volunteers if the IOU is to have a presence. Dick Tetrault felt these are important for IOU participation and offered to assist.

Bequests. IOU has received bequests recently, and Dick Tetrault discussed uses and responses to this new form of revenue, including the need to thank the families of donors. Jim Dinsmore and Ric Zarwell added that since the IOU is sometimes unsure what to do with the funds, it could ask for suggestions from the family based upon their knowledge of the donor's interests. The IOU could also develop a list of possible uses for bequests. Hank Zaletel recommended publishing a comment about the bequest in addition to a personal letter, and Linda Zaletel proposed annual mention of this option for supporting the IOU.

IOU Trips. Dick Tetrault stated his belief that field trips and tours are a cohesive force for IOU, and that it has several qualified trip leaders. Regarding in-state trips, Hank Zaletel suggested the IOU link up with local bird outings. Ann Johnson expressed concerns about liability for longer trips. Bob Cecil noted that although he had reservations about the IOU membership in effect subsidizing trips for individuals, he felt the liability issue was worth exploring.

Old Business. Dick Tetrault will ask the registrar to work on facilitating direct donations to specific committees, and will recommend single budget categories for the respective committees. Ann Johnson said that this could be impractical for publications because of directed contributions such as to the website.

Bob Cecil asked when the survey results would be made available. Linda and Hank Zaletel responded that the release to the membership was overdue and that Hank would complete the summary and submit it to the newsletter soon.

New Business. Dick Tetrault recommended that \$3,000 be placed in the Publications Committee budget to give them some budget flexibility. Bob Cecil moved and Linda Zaletel seconded. Discussion followed regarding the scheduling of the funding. The motion was withdrawn by Bob Cecil, who then moved that \$3,000 be made immediately available to the Publications Committee budget. Linda Zaletel seconded, all ayes, motion carried. Sharon Stilwell noted that the constitution requires that the IOU not engage in deficit spending. There was brief discussion of what constituted deficit spending.

Dick Tetrault expressed his concern that we have too much money in reserve, and that this amount should be reduced. He thought that transferring a large sum to a Publications Committee reserve account was an appropriate use, as is supporting IOU trips and tours.

Bob Cecil asked for clarification regarding whether the respective committees can raise and expend revenues in their name.

Registrar's Report. Dave Edwards reported that membership development is doing well, almost exclusively because of gift memberships and the website. He also noted that the constitution allows only for calendar year memberships although he was prepared to initiate memberships during the quarter of joining. This may require a constitutional amendment.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M., but was reconvened at 2:40 P.M. to take action on the Membership Committee budget. Ric Zarwell moved and Bob Cecil seconded that \$500 be allocated to its budget. All ayes, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Bob Cecil.

Bylaws of the Publications Committee of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Approved by the IOU Board of Directors on 17 May 2003

These bylaws replace those published in *Iowa Bird Life* 60(1):26–28, 1990.

PURPOSE

1. To publish a quarterly journal, *Iowa Bird Life*, and other publications, such as *IOU News*, as deemed desirable by the committee, the board, and the membership.
2. To publish special publications as deemed desirable by the committee, the board, and the membership.
3. To make recommendations on electronic publication of information, materials, and articles sponsored by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU), except for items that fall under the purview of the Records or Membership committees or the board of directors.
4. To make the publications of the IOU as exemplary as possible with the resources available.
5. To distribute announcements of meetings of the IOU, in or with regular publications.
6. To establish places of publication including a third-class mailing permit, and make such appointments as are necessary to produce and distribute the publications of the IOU.
7. To make sure that the publications processes conform to the IOU's tax-exempt status.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

1. The committee shall consist of five voting members appointed by the board of directors. When vacancies occur, the committee, including outgoing members, shall recommend replacements to the board.
2. Ordinarily the primary editors of printed and electronic publications will serve during their tenure of editorship. In case of co-editors, only one shall be a formal member of the committee; others may attend and participate. Other members who are not editors, of which there shall be at least two, may serve 5 years. Two terms shall be staggered, the period of service determined by the chair of the Publications Committee.
3. A member may be involuntarily removed from the committee by a unanimous vote of the other four members and approval by the board of directors.
4. The committee shall elect its officers, which shall include at least a chairperson.

5. The committee may appoint ex officio members.
6. The committee shall appoint editors and such other major administrative positions as are necessary to carry out the publication process, with approval by the board of directors. The committee shall approve appointments made by the editors of subeditors and other regular staff.
7. Qualifications for appointment to the committee should include expertise in the publications process, knowledge of Iowa ornithology, and/or familiarity with the publication needs of the membership. Members of the committee should be willing and able to actively participate in carrying out the mission of the committee.

COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

1. The committee may set up such procedures as are needed for its operation as long as they do not conflict with the constitution of the IOU or the committee bylaws.
2. The committee may recommend changes in the bylaws to the board.
3. The committee may hold meetings as needed and/or conduct business by mail, electronically, or by phone.
4. Formal actions of the committee require three positive votes.
5. The committee should review job performance of appointed positions at least every five years.

FINANCES

1. The committee shall submit a prospective budget for publications under the purview of the committee and for other items.
2. No monies shall be expended beyond the approved budget without prior approval by the board or the president acting for the board, except for unforeseeable cost overruns. Significant cost overruns shall be reported to the committee and the president.
3. No member shall receive remuneration for serving on the committee per se, other than for approved expenses or specific production work on publications.
4. Funds to be paid to editors for the task of publication and distribution shall be reflected in the annual prospective budget.

Fifty Years Ago in Iowa Bird Life

James J. Dinsmore

Much of the September 1953 issue was a long article by James Sieh on the waterfowl of Iowa. Sieh, who was then state waterfowl biologist for the Iowa Conservation Commission, provided a good overview of Iowa's waterfowl, describing their major flyways through the state and summarizing waterfowl hunting statistics. Less information is provided on waterfowl breeding areas in Iowa. Probably the most interesting comparison is the change in the migration pattern of Snow Geese through Iowa. Sieh describes the spring flight of Snow Geese, especially through western Iowa, as the "most spectacular migratory event of the year" in Iowa. Although many Snow Geese still migrate through Iowa in spring, most now move through Nebraska and states further west. In contrast, the fall migration of Snow Geese is now the most spectacular migratory event in Iowa. Among the notes is one by long-time IOU member Dennis Carter describing a "red-shafted" Northern Flicker and a Spotted Towhee he found in Webster City.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014-3907 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) \$15, Goldfinch \$20, Blue-bird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Additional family members, \$4 per person. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Send subscriptions, membership payments, back issue requests, or address changes to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS: Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent in Word or WordPerfect to the editor. Research manuscripts will be sent for peer review. Submission of material should be by e-mail attachment or IBM-formatted 3.5" diskette; alternatively, by mail, typed or handwritten.

Photos and graphics: Submit photos and slides preferably as TIFF (*.tif) images or as high resolution JPEG (*.jpg) images in e-mail attachment, on 3.5" diskette or CD, or by mail. All photos, slides, and graphics will be returned.

Send all materials other than seasonal field reports to Kayleen A. Niyo at Kay@KayNiyo.com or by mail to 25100 Sunset Lane, Evergreen, CO 80439. Deadlines for submission are **January 1 for winter issue (Vol. 1), April 1 for spring issue (2), July 1 for summer issue (3), October 1 for fall issue (4)**. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

IOU NEWS: Paul Hertzelt, Editor, 240 12th Street, S.E., Mason City, IA (phertzelt@rconnect.com)

IOU WEB SITE: <<http://www.iowabirds.org>>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster. On-line resource for rare bird alerts, checklists, site guides, IOU information and membership. Support the IOU through purchases at the on-line IOU Nature Store.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Aaron Brees, Christmas Bird Count Editor, 8712 Carole Circle, Apt. 14, Urbandale, IA 50322 (abrees@hotmail.com).

IOWA BIRDLINE: Pete Ernzen at (712) 365-2863 and Danny Akers (warbler_1231@hotmail.com)

ADDRESS CHANGES: Send address changes/membership subscriptions to Registrar David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net).

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION: 10–12 October 2003, Hitchcock Nature Area, Loess Hills

DESIGN: Lynn Ekblad, Ames, IA

GRAPHICS: Richard Beachler, Boone, IA

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